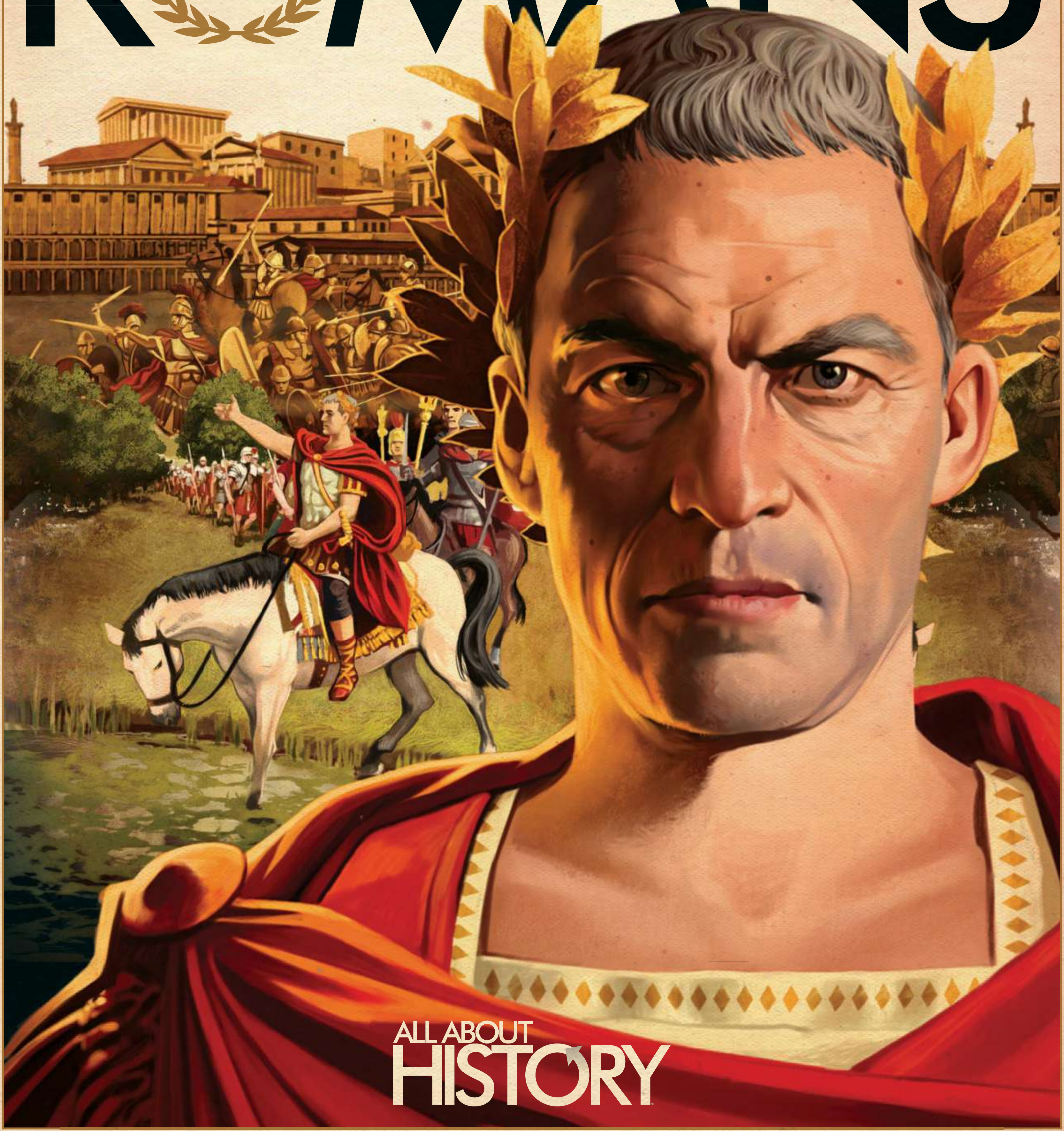
# ALL ABOUT ROMANS

## THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MIGHTY ANCIENT EMPIRE



ALL ABOUT HISTORY

ALL ABOUT ROMANS

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We all know about their roads and aqueducts, but there is so much more to the Romans than their practical transport solutions. We've put together this action-packed digital edition to bring you the history of Ancient Rome without the boring bits, from murderous emperors to slave rebellions. Enjoy!

**Alicea Francis** Deputy Editor

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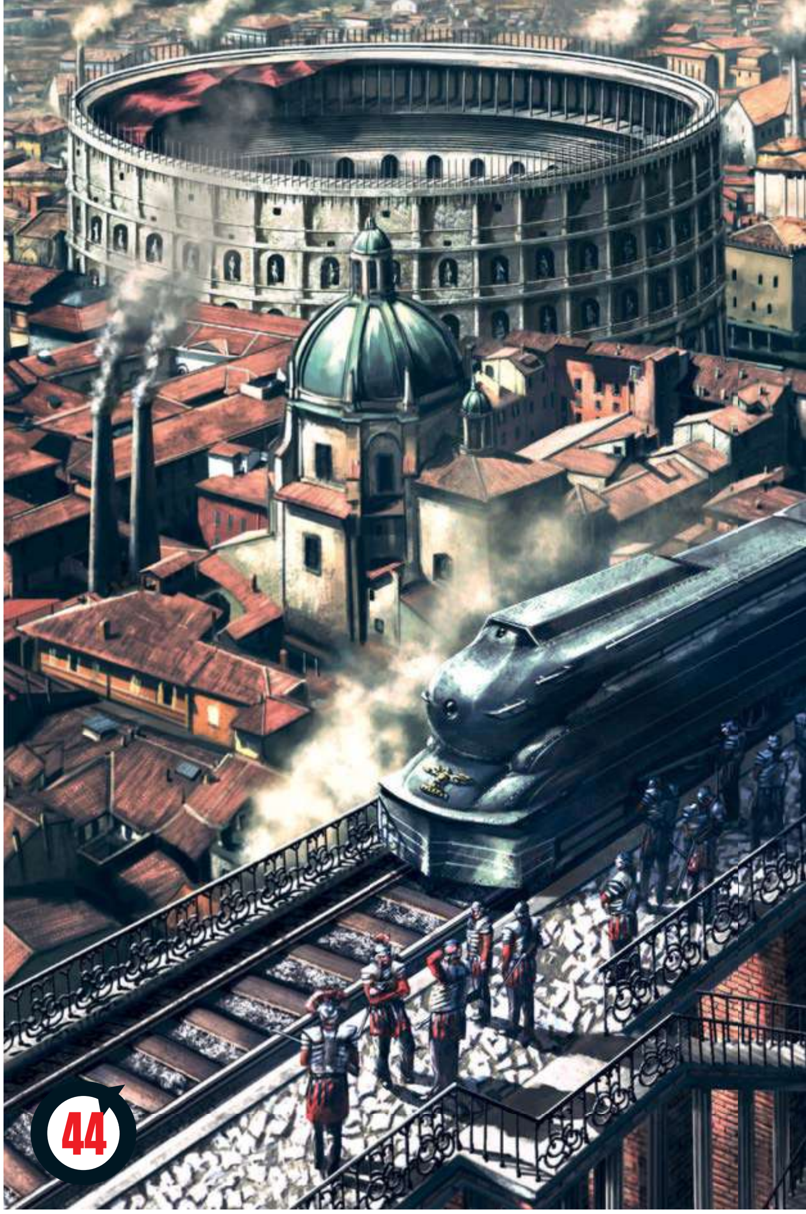

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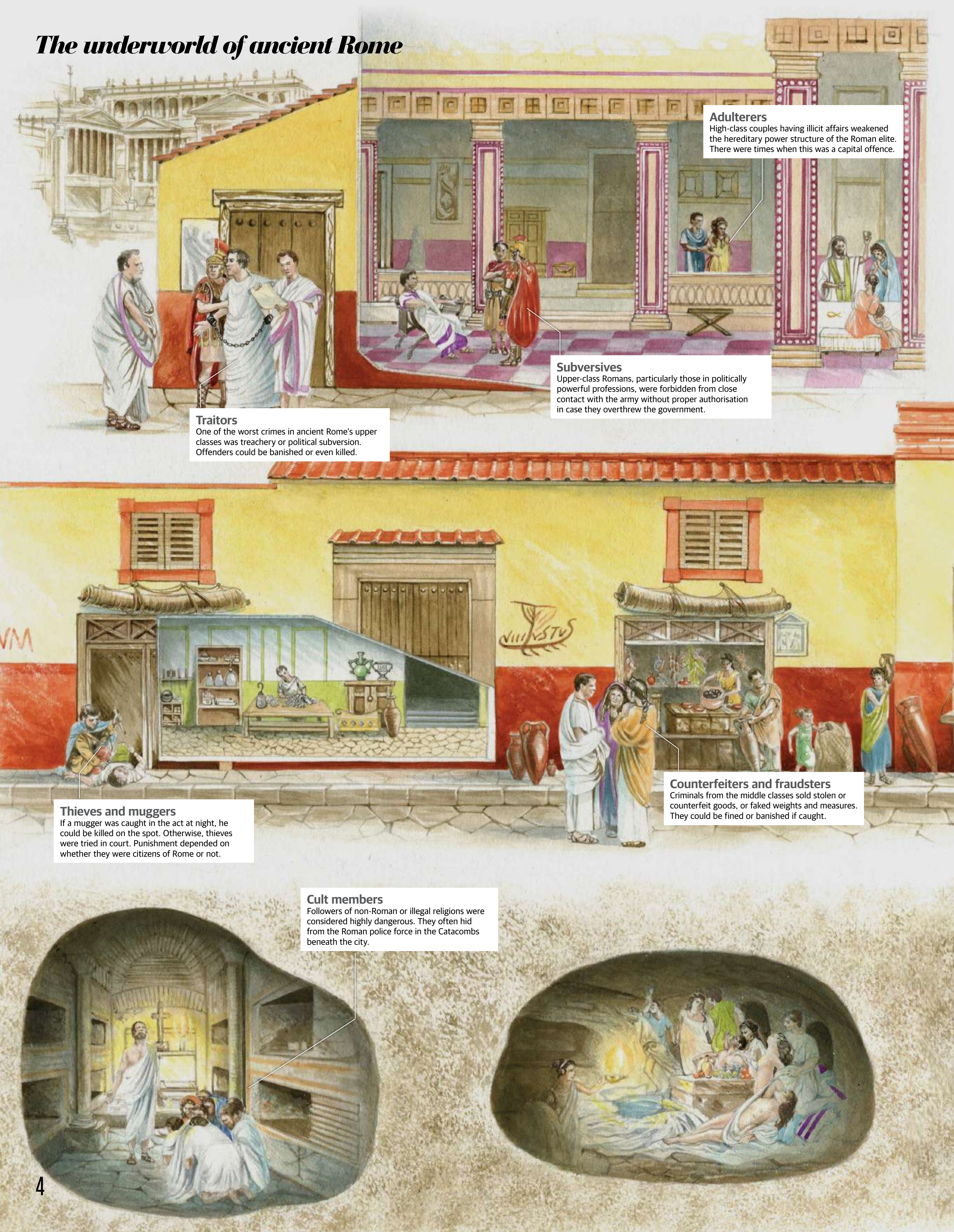
# The underworld of ancient Rome



### Adulterers

High-class couples having illicit affairs weakened the hereditary power structure of the Roman elite. There were times when this was a capital offence.

### Subversives

Upper-class Romans, particularly those in politically powerful professions, were forbidden from close contact with the army without proper authorisation in case they overthrew the government.

### Traitors

One of the worst crimes in ancient Rome's upper classes was treachery or political subversion. Offenders could be banished or even killed.

### Counterfeiters and fraudsters

Criminals from the middle classes sold stolen or counterfeit goods, or faked weights and measures. They could be fined or banished if caught.

### Thieves and muggers

If a mugger was caught in the act at night, he could be killed on the spot. Otherwise, thieves were tried in court. Punishment depended on whether they were citizens of Rome or not.

### Cult members

Followers of non-Roman or illegal religions were considered highly dangerous. They often hid from the Roman police force in the Catacombs beneath the city.

From the Senate to the streets, crime was rife in ancient Rome. From escaped slaves to treacherous aristocrats, discover the extent of Roman villainy

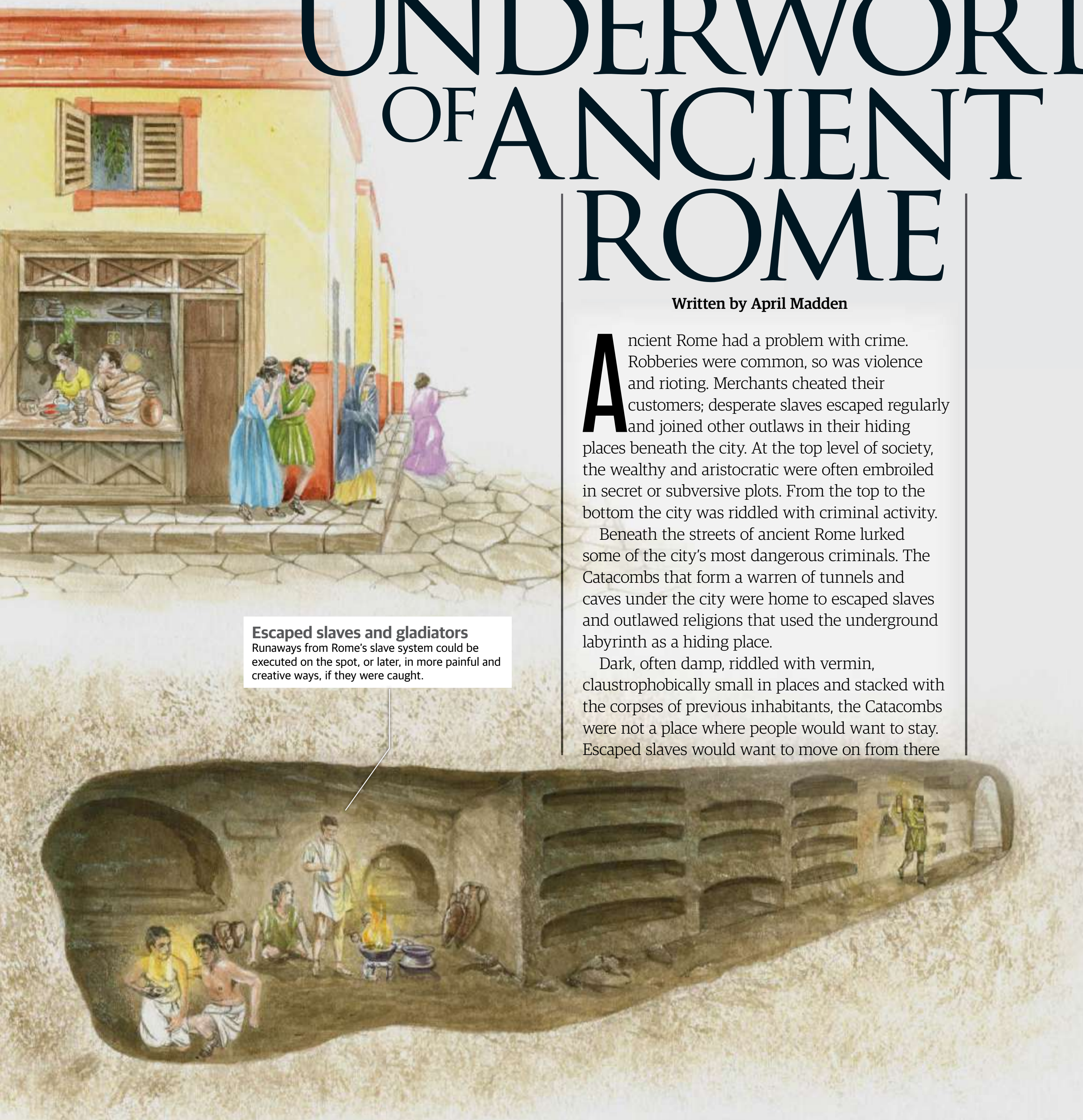
# THE UNDERWORLD OF ANCIENT ROME

Written by April Madden

Ancient Rome had a problem with crime. Robberies were common, so was violence and rioting. Merchants cheated their customers; desperate slaves escaped regularly and joined other outlaws in their hiding places beneath the city. At the top level of society, the wealthy and aristocratic were often embroiled in secret or subversive plots. From the top to the bottom the city was riddled with criminal activity.

Beneath the streets of ancient Rome lurked some of the city's most dangerous criminals. The Catacombs that form a warren of tunnels and caves under the city were home to escaped slaves and outlawed religions that used the underground labyrinth as a hiding place.

Dark, often damp, riddled with vermin, claustrophobically small in places and stacked with the corpses of previous inhabitants, the Catacombs were not a place where people would want to stay. Escaped slaves would want to move on from there



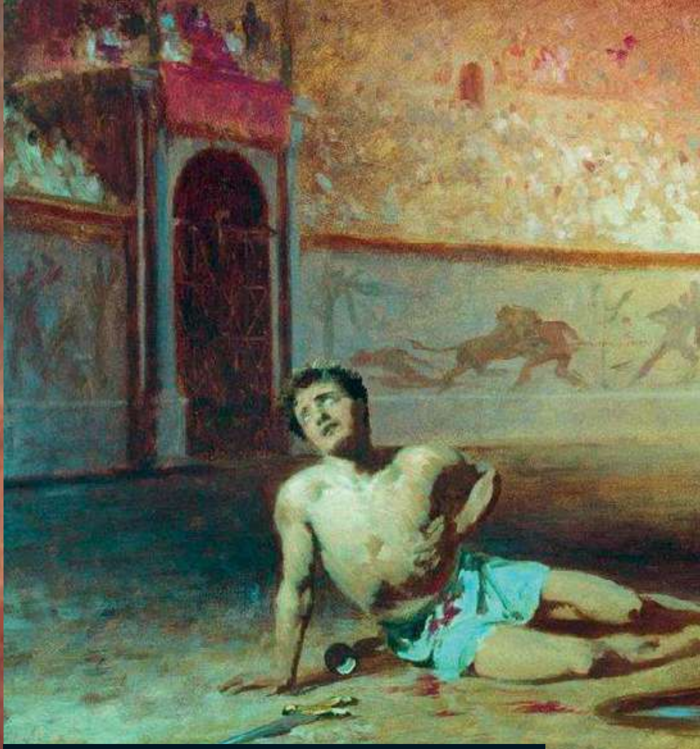
**Escaped slaves and gladiators**
Runaways from Rome's slave system could be executed on the spot, or later, in more painful and creative ways, if they were caught.

## THE WORLD UNDER ANCIENT ROME

### A place of rest and sanctuary

Catacombs are a network of tunnels and passageways, dug into the soft volcanic rock beneath Rome, which were created as underground cemeteries by Hebrews and early Christians between the 2nd and 5th centuries. Commonly, a stairway would lead 10-15 metres (33-50 feet) below the surface. At this point numerous galleries would diverge, wide enough for two people carrying a bier to walk. These Catacombs would provide temporary refuge to Christians during the time of the persecutions.

> "Obscure symbols helped other criminals to navigate the Catacombs, showing them which path to follow in the dark, stinking labyrinth"



Dying gladiator by Fedor Bronnikov, 1856. The drama of the Colosseum still appeals to artists and movie-makers today

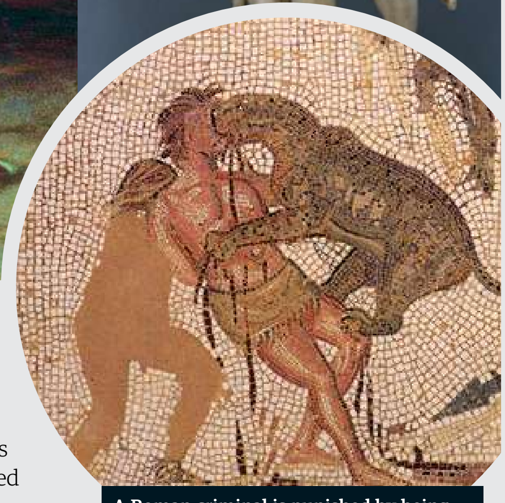
as soon as they could, and not just because of the grim conditions. In 71 BCE Rome crucified an escaped gladiator called Spartacus who was widely believed to be the ringleader of a group of escapees. He and his group had caused the Third Servile War, which raged for two years and resulted in Rome passing even harsher sentences against escaped slaves. Not wanting to be caught, slaves used the Catacombs only as a temporary hiding place on their way out of the city.

It was the religious cults that tended to stay in the underworld of the Catacombs. Romans were usually quite open-minded about gods who weren't their own, but some religions - Judaism, Christianity and Bacchanalia - followed dangerous ideologies. Bacchanalia was a Greek religion that the Romans had adopted. Its followers celebrated their god Bacchus with drunken orgies, and it was rumoured that they would murder those who refused to participate. In 186 BCE a law was passed against Bacchanalia.

Jews and Christians, meanwhile, were criminalised in ancient Rome because they believed that there was only one god. During the Roman Republic, with its pantheon of gods, this was frowned upon, but by the time Rome became an Empire it was an active threat to national security. Rome's last dictator, Julius Caesar, was deified when he died, his heir Augustus inherited the title 'Divi Filius' or 'son of a god'. Judaism and Christianity threatened this idea of divine emperor, and their followers fled underground.

There's remains evidence in the Catacombs of the life that these people lived. Often they would carve or paint their religious symbols onto the walls. Jews often painted images of themselves performing their rites, or of the menorah - the seven-branched candlestick that is often used to represent their faith. Christians were different. Knowing that they were the most-hated religious criminals and that Rome's riot police would sometimes pursue them even as far as the Catacombs, the Christians used a range of cryptic

Rome's first emperor, Augustus, enacted many laws against the criminal underworld of ancient Rome. This 1st century statue is in the Vatican Museum



A Roman criminal is punished by being thrown to the lions in the gladiatorial arena. This mosaic is from Roman Tunisia and dates from the 3rd century

## ONE LAW FOR ONE...

### Crime and punishment in Rome's class system

### The free Roman citizen

A free citizen of Rome, if caught stealing or cheating, was sued in court and made to pay a fine of twice to four times the value of what he had taken. If he'd committed a particularly serious crime, such as adultery, bribery or counterfeiting money or documents, he could be banished from society for the rest of his life. He would only be sentenced to death for very serious kinds of murder or treason, and could be offered a private execution instead of a public one. His legal protector in court had to be someone else of the same rank.

A statue depicting a free Roman citizen in a toga

### The non-citizen underclass

A member of the Roman underclasses – a poor, non-citizen 'plebeian' – could expect stricter penalties and punishments than a free citizen. If caught in the act of mugging someone at night, he could face execution, sometimes on the spot. However if he was arrested after the crime, or for anything apart from night-robbery or murder, he could argue his case in court. His legal protector in court could be 'anyone who cared'.

Non-citizens were given stricter punishment if found guilty

> "Ancient Rome had its own versions of our cheap designer fakes, payday loan scams and food scares"

signs such as stylised fish, Chi Ro symbols and 'sator squares' – coded word games that secretly spelled out a prayer – rather than the obvious cross/crucifix. These obscure symbols helped other criminals navigate the Catacombs, showing them which path to follow in the dark, vile labyrinth. The only reason they stayed so near to the city was that they believed they should spread their faith and that they would be rewarded for their sufferings in the afterlife.

Crime wasn't limited to the literal underworld though. Roman street crime would be familiar to anyone who watches today's news. Popular articles about graffiti, theft, disorder and violent crime were as common in ancient Rome as news reports about antisocial behaviour in deprived inner-city areas today. Roman sources like the poet Juvenal describe everything from nuisance noise, rowdy crowds and littering to mugging and burglary.

Walking down an ordinary street in Rome meant walking among a gamut of muggers and thieves. The public roads were noisy and crowded, making pick-pocketing easy – a thief could grab or cut a purse from their victim's belt and be off into the crowd before they had even been noticed. Several servants or guards, in the hope of deterring would-be muggers, would often accompany higher-class Romans into the lower-class areas. This caused its own problems for ordinary city dwellers, who would frequently complain about being barged out of the way and knocked over. The streets were littered with rotting produce and human sewage, which ordinary householders would dispose of from their upstairs windows. Being knocked sprawling into the street was also an open invitation for thieves to attack, under the guise of helping the victim to their feet.

The city's poorer inhabitants – members of the 'plebeian' underclass – made up the criminals of the lower-class streets. They were typically poor and underfed – vinegar and beans was their dinner – so their motivation for criminality wasn't greed, but need. Ordinary working Romans had been complaining of poverty and dejection and contrasting their bitter lot with the better lives of the higher classes from the very beginning of the Empire. With such a level of poverty and social disaffection, it's no wonder that many of the lower classes of the city turned to crime just to survive. Even a few coins stolen from one of their peers would buy some better food, or some cheap wine to help them momentarily forget their poverty.

Drinking led to another set of problems however: drunken violence. Juvenal, discussing his own mugging in his third Satire, seems just as offended to be accosted by a drunken lout as he is about being robbed. Public drunkenness was often the root cause of the mobs and rioting that periodically plagued ancient Rome – setting fires, looting goods and produce and damaging property. For this reason the Emperor Augustus set up two police forces in the later years of his reign. The 'vigiles urbani' were the City Watch – a security service that doubled as the city's fire service – while the 'cohortes urbanae' functioned as the riot police.

Every so often the police forces would be ordered to clear the lower-class criminals out of a particular area in the city or the countryside and villages immediately around it. Low-level criminality was so ensconced in plebeian Roman society that often the only effect this had was to move the problem around from area to area, mostly in the poor districts. But the middle classes had their own criminal element – they just committed different, more considered and more lucrative crimes.

Cheating, swindling and counterfeiting went on in ancient Rome's pleasanter streets and markets on a daily basis. Ancient Rome had its own versions of our cheap designer fakes, payday loan scams and food scares. Counterfeit coins and jewellery were a problem in the city. Some merchants would bulk out their grain with gravel or top up wine with seawater. Others leant money out at illegally high rates and took their debtors for everything they owned. Depending on their social standing, these cheating merchants and moneylenders could be sentenced to a range of punishments, from a public lashing to the payment of compensation.

The merchants were better educated and more organised than the lower-class street criminals. Rather than acting on impulse, they carefully planned both their crimes and how they would deal with getting caught. It was common for middle-class Roman traders to organise themselves into groups like trade unions, known as 'collegia'. While many of these were composed of law-abiding citizens, the odd criminal collegium did exist. The collegia's collective funds and organised legal status meant that they had power and resources

## LAWYERING-UP IN ANCIENT ROME

### Defence in the Roman courts

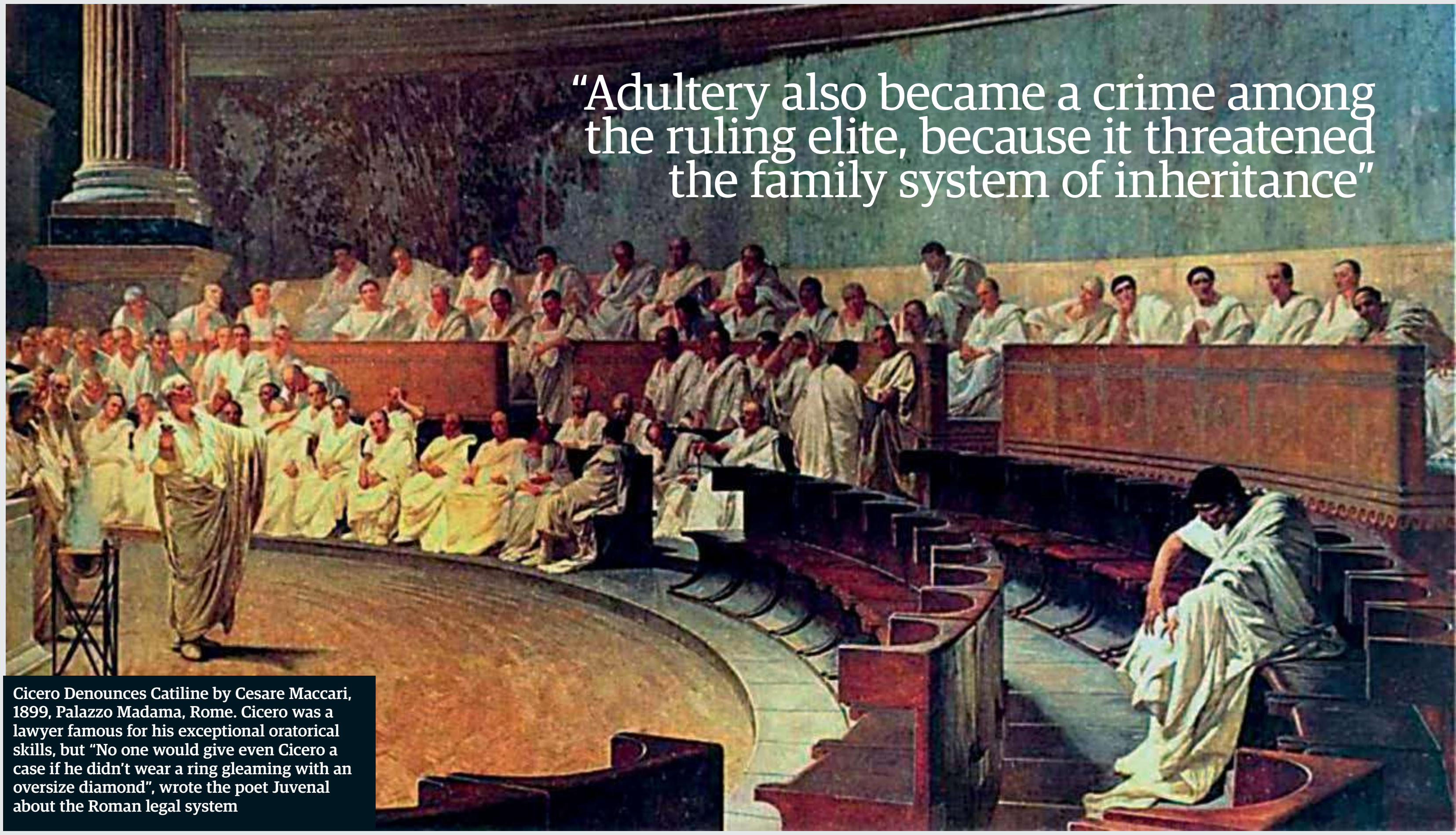
Like all career criminals, Roman offenders took their legal representation seriously. Rome is sometimes said to have had the first lawyers in the world and they were available to free citizens and to any non-citizen of the underclass who hadn't committed a capital crime. During a court case, in front of the local praetor (judge), a lawyer could represent his client and argue on his behalf. A lawyer's main function was to either prove his client not guilty or to reduce the penalty or punishment for his client's crime. However, all Roman lawyers were not created equal. Some served the wealthy patrician families and were rich and high-class themselves – "It's the stylish clothes that sell the lawyer," wrote Juvenal. Average citizens and non-citizens had no access to the high-powered lawyers of the elite, although members of a collegium could pool resources and influence to employ a more expensive lawyer for one of their members. Lawyers for poorer clients, however, sometimes ended up being paid not with money but with farm goods or food. The underclass were able to mount a trained legal defence in court – but their lawyers were generally almost as poor and hungry as the people they were defending.

that could be employed to get their members out of trouble if necessary. Criminal collegia were the nearest thing that ancient Rome had to the Mafia and they operated on much the same principle – keep together, stay quiet, and make money. Thanks to the organisation of these guilds, even if a criminal collegium member was caught, he could expect to be able to employ a decent lawyer and get away with a fine, or possibly banishment. If the worst happened and the fine he had to pay reduced him to complete bankruptcy though, he could be forced into slavery to pay off his debt.

Crime didn't stop when it reached the upper echelons of the city either – in fact, the high-class villas of the elite were a hotbed of a different type of criminal activity. Romans of the patrician class had no need to steal or swindle. They were born into the world of inherited wealth that the lower-class longed for and the middle classes aspired to. Their lives were very different from the general population, and so were their crimes. This was especially true during the transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire, when treason became one of the worst offences any Roman could commit. The crimes that are most familiar to us today among the Roman upper classes are of course the plots and assassinations that characterised much of the later Empire. We often think of the Roman upper classes as a hotbed of sedition and plotting, and indeed many did commit treachery in one way or another. Treachery, however, wasn't simply limited to plotting or assassination; it was anything that threatened Rome as a whole – the idea of the 'Eternal City' was perhaps more important than the people who lived in it.

Upper-class Romans were just as much at risk of being beguiled by the treacherous new religion of Christianity as the plebeians. Among the male elite there was always the danger that some bright young general or politician might think he could do a better job of ruling the city and its attendant Empire than the current establishment. Some of the worst upper-class Roman crimes included paying bribes to the army and patricide. Patricide meant killing your father or the 'paterfamilias' of your family. While this was a shocking crime in all strata of Roman society, it was worst in the patrician class. The head of the household symbolised a kind of mini-Emperor, a symbol of rulership, inheritance and the established order. To violate that was to violate the principles of the Roman Empire. Adultery also became a crime among the ruling elite, because it threatened the family system of inheritance.

Crime was a significant problem for the population of ancient Rome from all walks of life. And while the crimes – and their punishments – all varied in severity, execution and motivation, when it came down to it they all revolved around the same needs and wants: more money, more control, more power.

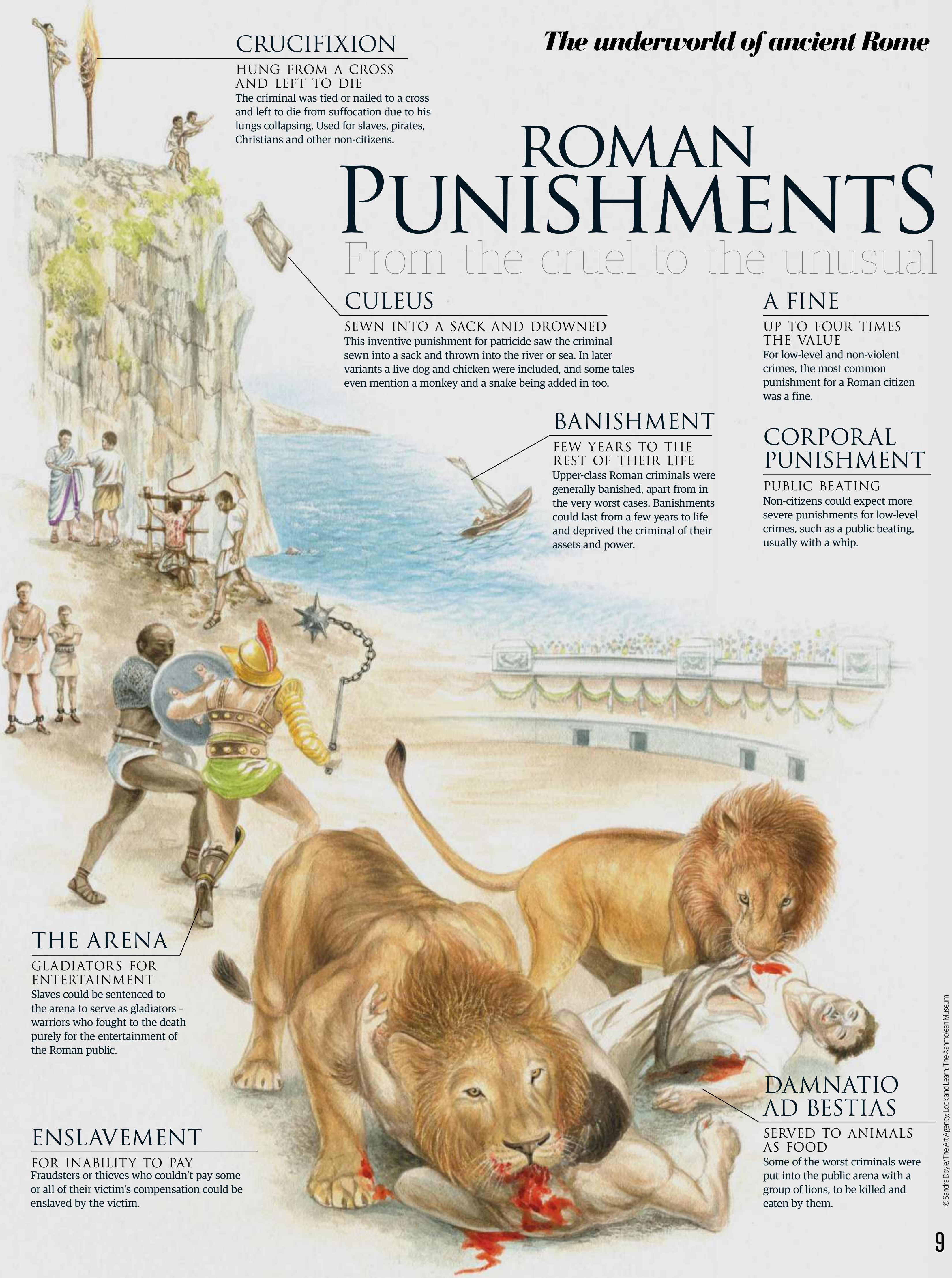


"Adultery also became a crime among the ruling elite, because it threatened the family system of inheritance"

**Cicero Denounces Catiline by Cesare Maccari, 1899, Palazzo Madama, Rome. Cicero was a lawyer famous for his exceptional oratorical skills, but "No one would give even Cicero a case if he didn't wear a ring gleaming with an oversize diamond", wrote the poet Juvenal about the Roman legal system**

# ROMAN PUNISHMENTS

From the cruel to the unusual



## CRUCIFIXION

### HUNG FROM A CROSS AND LEFT TO DIE

The criminal was tied or nailed to a cross and left to die from suffocation due to his lungs collapsing. Used for slaves, pirates, Christians and other non-citizens.

## CULEUS

### SEWN INTO A SACK AND DROWNED

This inventive punishment for patricide saw the criminal sewn into a sack and thrown into the river or sea. In later variants a live dog and chicken were included, and some tales even mention a monkey and a snake being added in too.

## A FINE

### UP TO FOUR TIMES THE VALUE

For low-level and non-violent crimes, the most common punishment for a Roman citizen was a fine.

## BANISHMENT

### FEW YEARS TO THE REST OF THEIR LIFE

Upper-class Roman criminals were generally banished, apart from in the very worst cases. Banishments could last from a few years to life and deprived the criminal of their assets and power.

## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

### PUBLIC BEATING

Non-citizens could expect more severe punishments for low-level crimes, such as a public beating, usually with a whip.

## THE ARENA

### GLADIATORS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

Slaves could be sentenced to the arena to serve as gladiators – warriors who fought to the death purely for the entertainment of the Roman public.

## ENSLAVEMENT

### FOR INABILITY TO PAY

Fraudsters or thieves who couldn't pay some or all of their victim's compensation could be enslaved by the victim.

## DAMNATIO AD BESTIAS

### SERVED TO ANIMALS AS FOOD

Some of the worst criminals were put into the public arena with a group of lions, to be killed and eaten by them.

© Sandra Doyle/The Art Agency; Look and Learn; The Ashmolean Museum

# *How to* BECOME A ROMAN CONSUL

## ROMAN REPUBLIC 509-27 BCE

## DUTIES OF THE CONSUL

### CHIEF JUDGE

This power was transferred to the praetors in 366 BCE, but consuls would still serve as judges in serious cases and whenever called upon.

### SENATE

Consuls were responsible for passing the laws of the senate, as well as acting as ambassadors on behalf of it.

### MILITARY

Consuls were the commanders-in-chief of the vast and strong Roman army, which they governed with the assistance of military tribunes.

### GOVERNORSHIP

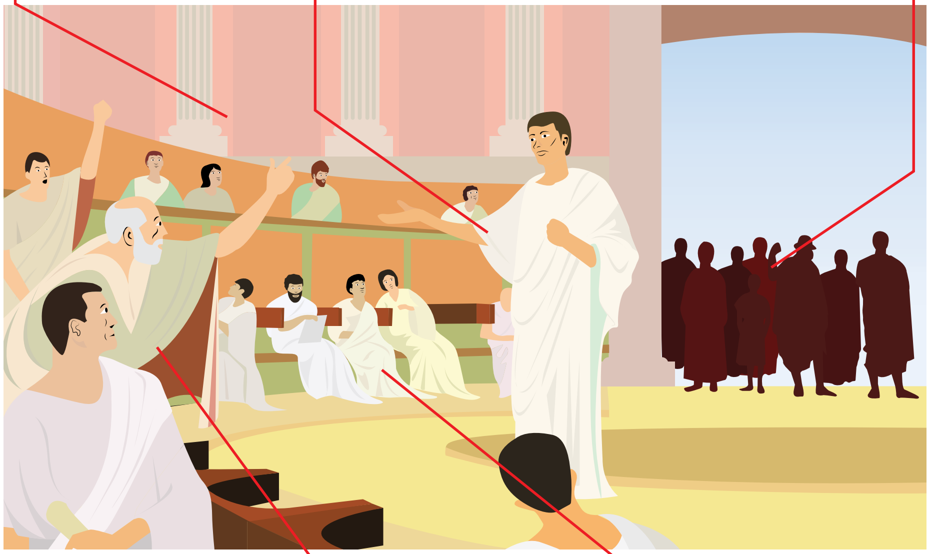
After leaving office, each consul was assigned – at random – a province or area to govern for a term of anywhere between one and five years.

### VETO

Each consul had the power to block his colleague's decree, in the process ensuring that important decisions were only made in unison.

It was the highest elected office in the days of the Roman Republic, and two consuls were elected at any one time, each serving a one-year term before being replaced. Their duties spanned a vast range of civil and military tasks, and from 367 BCE a plebeian (common) citizen could even stand for office. This kind of democracy wouldn't last, however, as the death of Julius Caesar and subsequent wars led to the establishment of the Roman Empire in 27 BCE. The consuls' powers were absorbed by that of the emperor, leaving them as mere figureheads.

## INSIDE THE SENATE



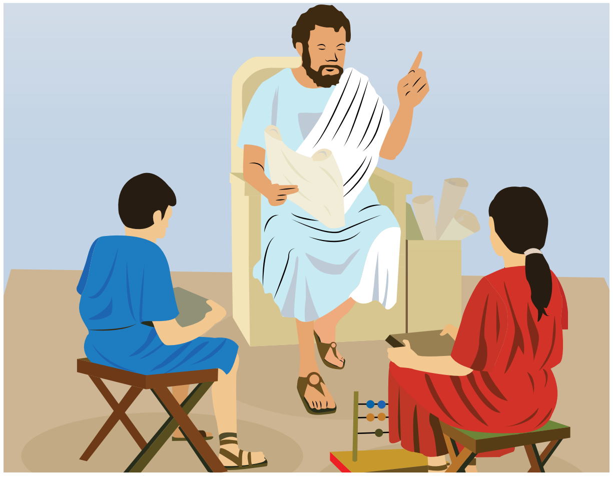
**Venue**
Many locations were used for senate meetings, such as the Temples of Jupiter Capitolinus, Fides, Concord and Apollo.

**Consul**
As the consul would frequently address the senate, he was expected to have a dominant presence and strong oratory style.

**Open doors**
Meetings were public. To highlight this, doors were left open during meetings, so anyone could observe them.

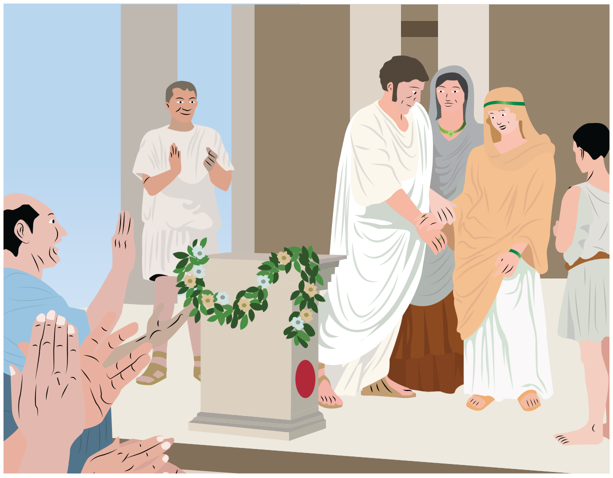
**Audience**
The senate originally comprised 100 men but increased to around 300 at the height of the Republic.

**Traditions**
One way to keep your opponents from the floor was to keep talking – a tactic employed several times by Cato the Younger.



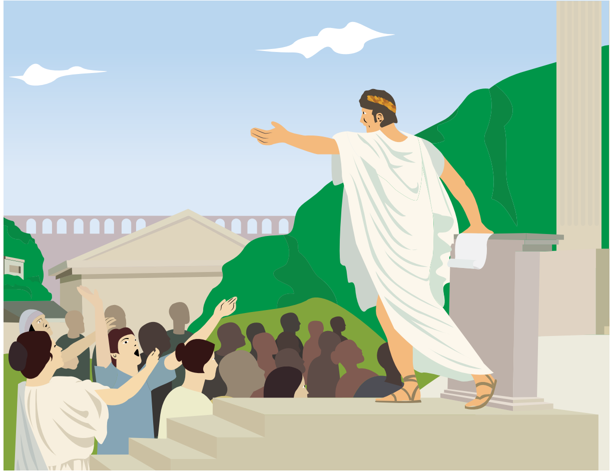
### 01 Get educated

Roman consuls are expected to have the immense confidence and education necessary to be superb public orators. For this reason, find yourself a private tutor – known around these woods as a pedagogue – to make sure you have the basic reading skills to lay the foundations you need to learn the art of rhetoric.



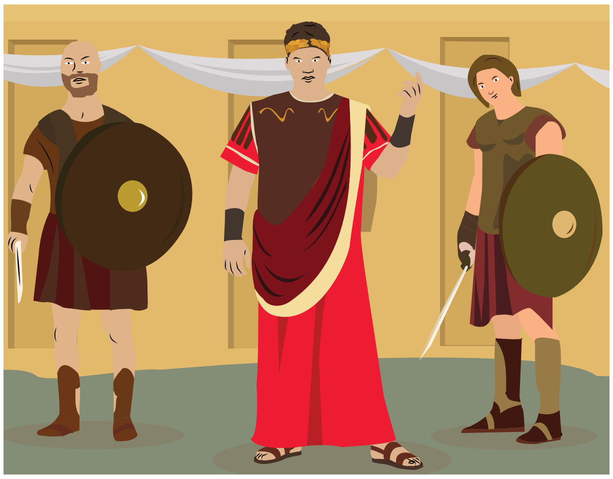
### 02 Marry into a wealthy family

If all else fails, attempt to increase your influence by marrying into it. In Rome, powerful and wealthy families often support each other in the form of alliances known as amicitia, which are generally made concrete in the form of arranged marriages. Being associated with a great family is a quick way to get some votes.



## 03 Be a showman

The better you present yourself to the people, the higher your odds of becoming a consul. As Marcus Tullius Cicero himself says: “Surround yourself with large numbers of people from every class and rank... Make sure your campaign has plenty of ceremony, brilliance and entertainment for the people.”

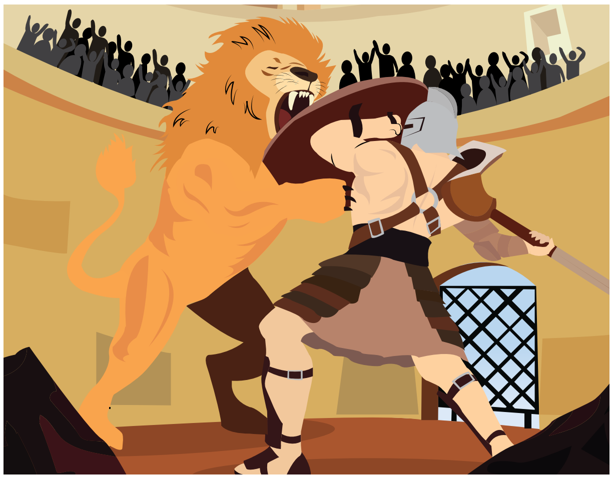


## 04 Intimidate your rivals

You mustn’t be afraid to use less than savoury means in order to get what you want. This can include inciting riots or hiring heavies - gladiators are particularly effective options here - to beat people up. If you happen to be a general, even better; simply make use of your heavily armed troops to threaten disorder.

## 05 Indulge in bribery

Bribery is common, especially in these waning days of the Roman Republic. Should you decide upon this as an option, be aware that it can take two forms: direct bribery (paying off officials with money in return for votes) or indirect (provision of free grain, entertainment and outdoor banquets).



## 06 Become a mob favourite

A man who has the support of the mob is a powerful man indeed, and should help you in your quest to become a consul. Putting on a series of gladiatorial games - preferably with a host of exotic animals - is a safe method of getting the mob on your side and willing to support you.

### How not to... seize power

Lucius Sergius Catilina, more commonly known as Catiline, was a prospective consul whose attempts to seize power went horribly wrong. Having been forbidden to campaign for election as a consul at an earlier date due to facing charges of extortion (he was ultimately acquitted), he was later defeated in 64 BCE by Cicero. Angered by this, he planned to take power by force, gathering a number of followers by promising to cancel debts, as well as appealing to the wants and needs of the poor. However, Cicero was constantly kept abreast of Catiline’s actions, forcing him to flee Rome after denouncing him as a traitor. Catiline later tried to enter Gaul (France) with his army, but he was prevented from doing so by forces led by general Gaius Antonius Hybrida in 62 BCE at Pistoria, where he and the majority of his followers were killed.

## (IN)FAMOUS CONSULS

### LUCIUS JUNIUS BRUTUS

509 BCE

The founder of the Roman Republic, he was one of the first consuls and is claimed to be an ancestor of Marcus Junius Brutus, one of Julius Caesar’s assassins.

### JULIUS CAESAR

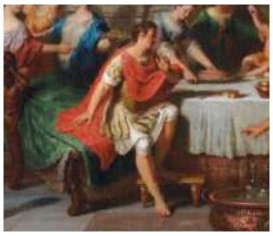
100-44 BCE

Caesar was consul on five separate occasions, before being murdered after declaring himself a dictator for life.

### MARK ANTONY

83-30 BCE

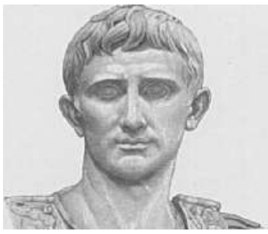
A consul on two occasions, he later ruled with Octavian before falling out, losing against him in battle and committing suicide with his lover, Cleopatra.



### AUGUSTUS

63 BCE-14 CE

Formerly known as Octavian, he first became consul in 43 BCE, before becoming the first Roman emperor in 27 BCE.



# CAESAR

# THE RISE TO POWER

## How one man's ambition and genius transformed Rome from a republic to a dictatorship

**Written by Jonathan Hatfull**

From Caesar's birth in 100 BCE to the time he crossed the Rubicon River in a brazen act of rebellion in 49 BCE, the Roman Senate floor was a battleground, where power was taken by cunning, conspiracy and force. The powder keg had exploded into conflict in 88 BCE with the first in a series of civil wars and rebellions, with the conservative elite locked in combat with the growing ranks of populists; Rome was full of orators, soldiers and politicians fighting for control. Gaius Julius Caesar was all three.

Caesar knew exactly what he was capable of and what he wanted and, when Caesar saw an opportunity, he took it. His cunning, ruthlessness and the sheer scope of his ambition would change the landscape of western Europe and beyond. After decades of outrage and protest, adoration and adulation, only his murder could finally put a stop to Caesar's vision but, even as his blood cooled on the Senate floor, there could be no doubt that the change he brought about was irrevocable.

From a young age, Caesar showed the qualities that would propel him through the corrupt, backbiting world of Roman politics. In 82 BCE, when Caesar was roughly 18 years old, his family was in a precarious position. They were linked to the regime of the popular consul Gaius Marius by marriage, so when Marius's bitter enemy, Sulla, took power by force they had to capitulate to this new regime to survive. Sulla ordered Caesar to abandon his position as high priest of Jupiter and to break off his marriage to Cornelia, the daughter of Marius's old ally Cinna. Showing a stubbornness that bordered on suicidal, Caesar refused to kneel and instead went into hiding until his mother could convince Sulla to give him a reprieve.

Instead of idly waiting for Sulla's forgiveness, Caesar took the first step on what would prove to be a long and illustrious career. He joined the military and travelled to Asia in service of the empire. He quickly proved himself in battle, earning the Civic Crown (one of the highest military decorations available to a Roman soldier) for saving the life of one of his men.

This dedication to his fellow soldiers would be a cornerstone of Caesar's life in the army, as he understood how vital the respect and loyalty of his men would be. His spotless reputation was threatened when he was sent to obtain a fleet from the Bithynian monarch Nicomedes though. Caesar spent so long at Nicomedes' court that word spread the young soldier was engaged in an affair with the king. Whether or not there was any truth to the rumour, Caesar denied it fiercely at every opportunity. While the rumour never quite went away, it didn't slow him down.

When Sulla died in 78 BCE, the stage was set for Caesar's return to Rome. He had proven himself as a soldier and now it was time to demonstrate one of

## GAIUS JULIUS CAESAR

**100-44 BCE**

***Brief Bio***

Julius Caesar was a Roman general, statesman, consul and notable author of Latin prose. His strength as a military leader and a politician played a critical role in the events that led to the expansion of Roman territory, the demise of the Roman Republic and, from its ashes, the rise of the Roman Empire.

# ROME BEFORE CAESAR

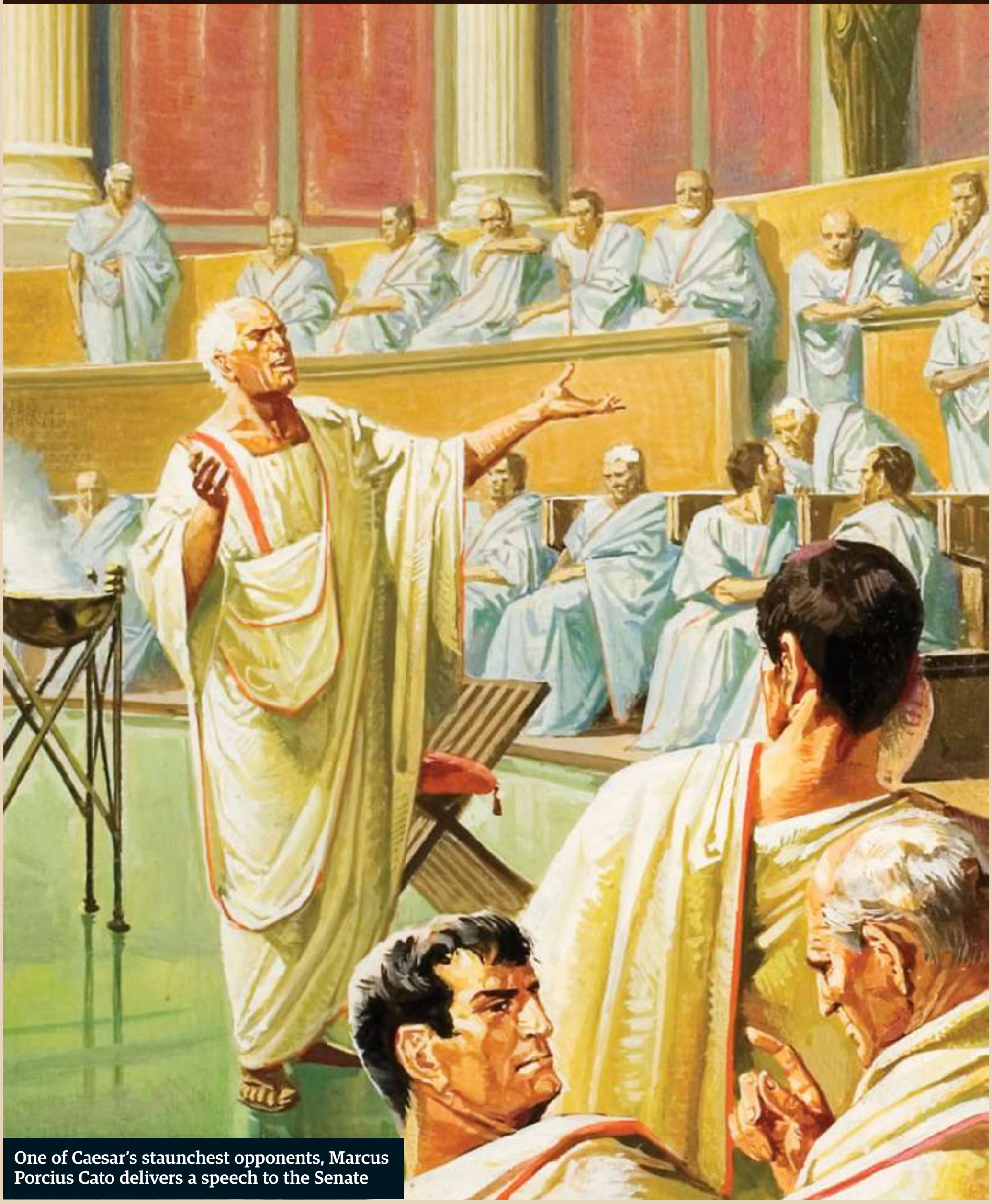
Before Caesar stepped onto the Senate floor, the Roman political system was divided in two: the optimates and the populists. Every politician stated their belief in freedom, but the problem was that the two groups had different ideas about what exactly freedom meant.

The Senate had become something close to a private club run by the optimates, where privilege, status and who you knew meant power. However, that libertarian ideal meant something very different to the populists, who made their voices heard in the People's Assembly. Both groups believed that they were acting in the best interests of the Republic, and both used the word 'liberty' in their manifestos, but they agreed on practically nothing, leading to political chaos.

The populists and conservatives would face each other in the Plebeian Assembly where they would fight for the popular vote. It would seem that the popular vote would surely have gone to the populists, but the conservatives had several points in their favour. The voters who could afford to travel from outside of Rome would often side with the elite, while others could easily be bribed. The outrage over this corruption, along with the government's military failures in Gaul and North Africa, led to a precarious state of affairs for anyone occupying the position of consul.

General Gaius Marius was elected to improve Rome's military operations overseas and was immensely popular. When Sulla, an optimate general, was elected for the same reason, the populists panicked and tried to recall him. An enraged Sulla responded by executing the tribune who had proposed the order and establishing himself as Rome's dictator, instigating Rome's first civil war. Marius and Sulla battled for power until the former died of natural causes, leaving Sulla without any opposition. He spent the remainder of his time in office working to diminish the influence of the populists and increase the power of the conservatives.

When Sulla himself died in 78 BCE, the people were desperate for a voice in the Senate, and Julius Caesar was ready to speak for them.


One of Caesar's staunchest opponents, Marcus Porcius Cato delivers a speech to the Senate

his other skills. He entered into the legal profession and used his other great talent: his voice. Caesar was a charismatic and persuasive public speaker and he used this skill to full effect. The Roman political system was in a constant state of imbalance between the wealthy elite that occupied the Senate and the populists who raged against such flagrant inequality. Caesar's gift for public speaking helped him to gain the support of the populace as he targeted corruption in the aristocracy. Caesar needed the people to love him and his every gesture was made with one eye on their reaction.

It wasn't just his grandstanding in the courthouse that was making him popular. The public loved a good story and Caesar had a knack for providing them. In 75 BCE he was captured by pirates while sailing to Greece, who planned on holding him to ransom to the tune of 20 talents of gold. Caesar had no intention of being ransomed for so paltry a sum and told them so. Instead, he convinced his captors to raise their price to 50.

The story that returned to Rome with Caesar was that the group kept up a lively, jovial atmosphere, in which the prisoner promised that, when he was released, he would hunt them down and kill them as punishment for their crimes. The pirates may not have taken him at his word and that would prove a fatal mistake. As soon as he was freed, Caesar led a group that captured, imprisoned and crucified them. Ruthless treatment indeed, but ever with an eye on the crowd Caesar showed a measure of mercy and ordered that their throats be slit first to spare them the agony of the execution. After all, they had treated him well.

An opportunity to face greater odds and test himself as a leader on the battlefield arose when fighting broke out in Asia Minor. Caesar raised a military force and defended Rome's territory long enough for his commanders to launch a counterattack. He returned home a hero and was promptly elected military tribune, followed by an appointment as quaestor (a kind of magistrate) for southern Spain and Portugal soon after.

This magisterial position put him in charge of finances in the region and gave him bureaucratic and administrative experience that would serve him well. When he returned to Rome for his Aunt Julia's funeral, Julius Caesar gave a eulogy that left nobody in any doubt about his ambition or his self-belief. In this speech, he reiterated that his late aunt's illustrious lineage could be traced back to the gods themselves. It would not have been lost on anyone present that Caesar was taking this opportunity to remind everyone that he was also from holy stock. A man descended from the gods would not be content with remaining a magistrate.

Now back in Rome, Caesar had taken his first steps on the political ladder and he quickly showed he wasn't going to stop climbing. Although he preached against corruption, Caesar was not above bribing anyone who might help him get what he wanted. As he leapfrogged from aedile in 65 BCE to high priest in 63 to praetor in 62, he was falling deeper into debt and making some formidable

> "As he leapfrogged from aedile in 65 BCE to high priest in 63 to praetor in 62, he was falling deeper into debt and making some formidable enemies"

enemies - particularly the apparently incorruptible senator Marcus Porcius Cato (or Cato the Younger).

A nearly fatal stumble occurred when Caesar was forced to slip out of two scandals in quick succession. Many believed that he had been involved in Catiline's attempt to assassinate the then-consul Cicero, while he was forced to divorce his wife when it became clear that she'd been in part responsible for the Bona Dea scandal. While the former plot involved the overthrow of the government, the latter, in which it was clear that a man had attended an exclusively female religious ceremony and thus desecrated it, was far more embarrassing. Both were costly, and Caesar ended up bankrupting himself to stay above them. If he had any intention of going further - which he certainly did - Caesar not only needed more money, he needed to get some muscle on side.

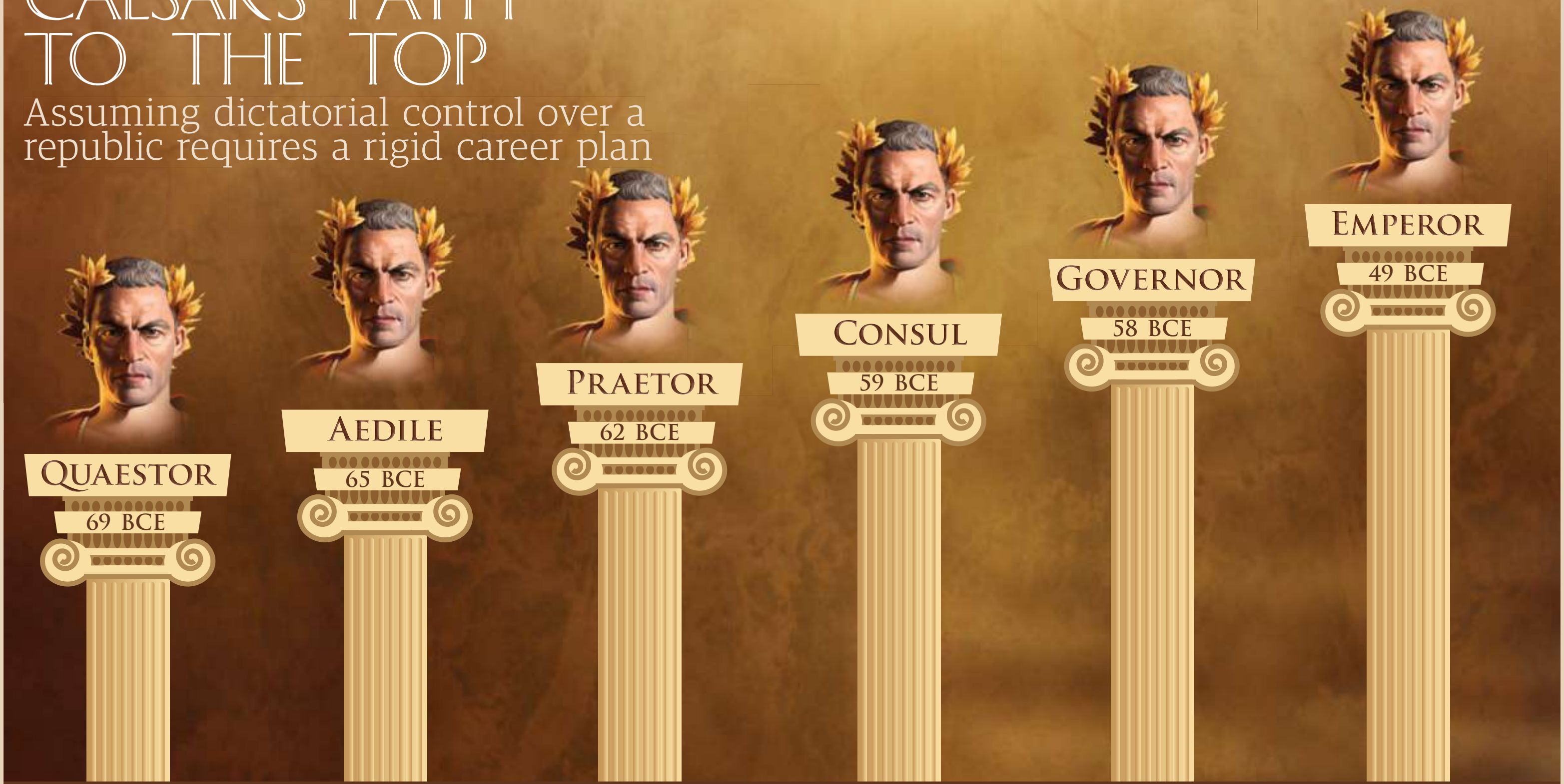
Financial backing came from the extremely wealthy Marcus Crassus. Crassus had made his name as a young general fighting with Sulla, but his real talent lay with making money from properties and buying and selling slaves. Caesar's debts were so serious that he couldn't even leave Rome to start his new governorship in Spain before he made some repayments. Fortunately for Caesar, Crassus saw how popular Caesar was with the public and agreed to satisfy some of his creditors, allowing Caesar to go on to yet more military triumphs in his Spanish Wars.

He crushed the rebelling tribes and looted their cities, before helping the region extricate itself from debt. Once again, Caesar returned home a hero and with his eye on the next step up: the consulship. He was so determined to obtain the position that he passed up the opportunity for a military parade through the city in order to put his application forward before the deadline. Adulation could wait; his rise to power could not.

He may have had money and he certainly had popularity, but Caesar knew that he needed brute force to combat his enemies in the Senate and keep them quiet. In a moment of brilliant inspiration, he turned to a respected general and Crassus's bitterest rival, Gnaeus Pompeius - otherwise known as Pompey. In 62 BCE Pompey had returned from campaigns in Syria and Judaea that were so

## CAESAR'S PATH TO THE TOP

### Assuming dictatorial control over a republic requires a rigid career plan



In 69 BCE Caesar was elected quaestor for Baetica (Andalucía). The position was similar to that of a magistrate combined with an accountant; Caesar oversaw the finances of the region and conducted investigations where necessary. This role may have inspired his vision of a smoother-running empire and his later innovations to Roman infrastructure.

An aedile organised games and looked after Rome's public buildings and markets. Caesar used this position to win public favour by staging immense gladiatorial games, with over 640 gladiators. The Senate was wary of the furore of the event and set a limit on how many gladiators one man could keep, but the message was clear: Caesar knew what the common people wanted.

The praetor position combined the duties of an aedile and a quaestor. They were senior magistrates appointed to oversee civil matters, while others had specific courts to head up. In the absence of a consul, the praetor took power. Just one step before consulship, at this point Caesar's opponents were beginning to grow anxious as he showed no signs of slowing down.

The consulship was a presidential post shared by two men that had been established after the Romans abolished the monarchy. It came with a lot of power too as the consul had control of the Republic's finances, the military and the justice system. Although a consul was supposed to listen to the Senate's advice, they could not be tried until their term of office was over.

A governor, or proconsul, was a regional position that had many of the same duties as a consul. Lucrative and powerful, it was the traditional posting following a consulship, and a proconsul could not face prosecution until his term had finished. As governor of Gaul, Caesar added modern-day France and Belgium to the empire and ventured on expeditions to Britain.

The position of emperor came about as Caesar attempted to find a title that matched his responsibilities without being named king. He took on the duties of several different offices, such as praetor and consul, without taking the titles themselves. He was no longer obliged to take the Senate's advice and he involved himself deeply in all aspects of Rome's infrastructure.

> "What came next was a political campaign so dirty and underhanded that even Cato, renowned for his honesty, was forced to resort to bribery to keep Caesar out"

successful it made the Roman senators nervous. In order to limit his power, they ignored his request to ratify the treaties he had secured and the promises he had made to his soldiers. The general was eager to lend his support to somebody who might get things done and restore his pride.

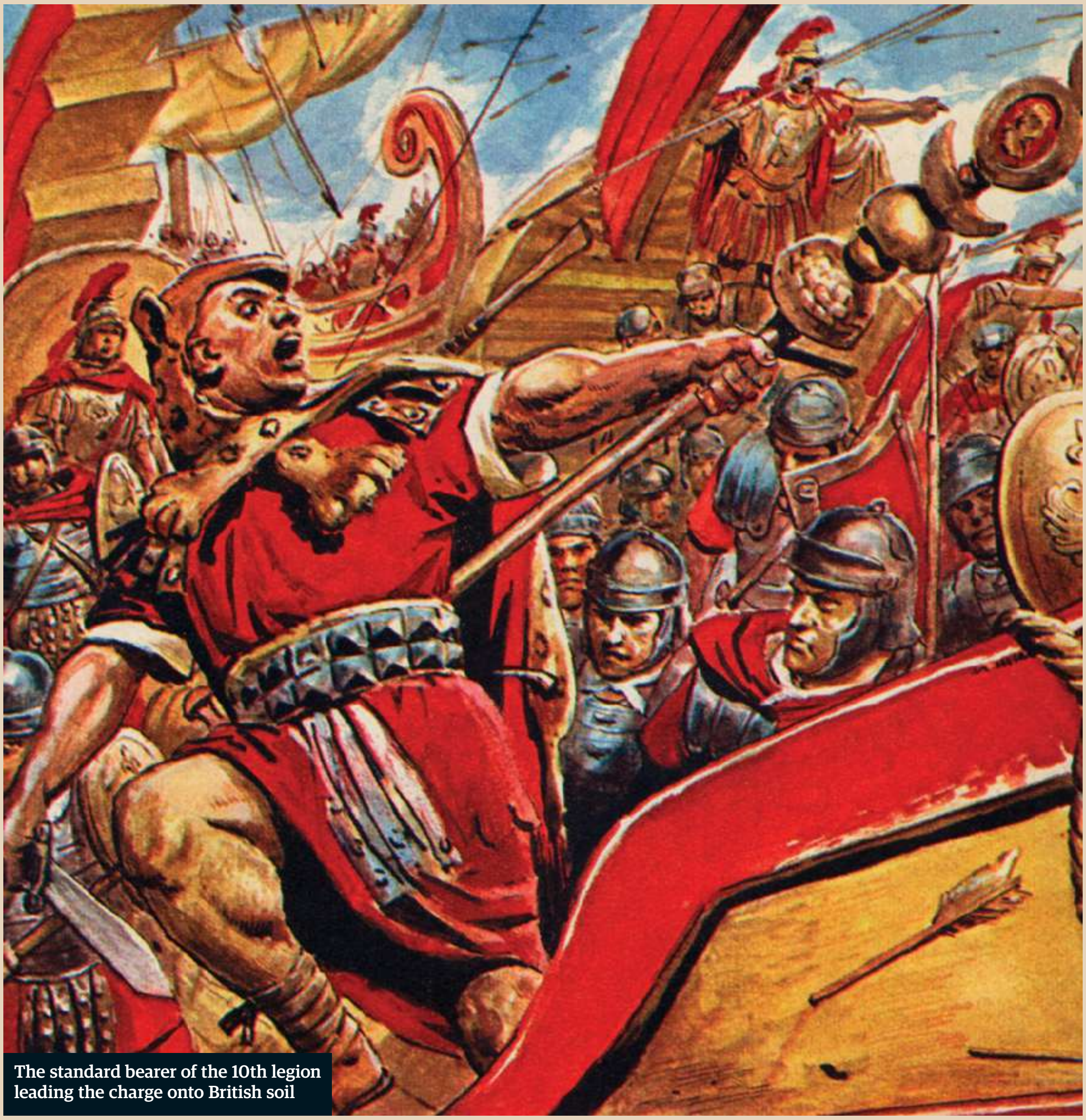
Caesar convinced Crassus and Pompey that the benefits of power were worth putting aside their differences and formed the First Triumvirate in 60 BCE. To seal their agreement, Pompey married Caesar's daughter Julia, while Caesar married Calpurnia - the daughter of a friend of Crassus. This political powerhouse terrified the Senate - particularly Cato - who set himself directly in opposition to the ambitious candidate.

What came next was a political campaign so dirty and underhanded that even Cato, renowned for his honesty, was forced to resort to bribery to keep Caesar out. It didn't work. With money, muscle and cunning, his campaign was unstoppable and Caesar was elected consul in 59 BCE.

While he took care of his friends (Pompey was appointed governor in Spain and Crassus a general), Caesar's time as consul cemented his reputation for ruthlessness. If his powers of persuasion weren't enough, Pompey's soldiers intimidated any opposition in the Senate. Caesar's co-consul (and Cato's son-in-law), Bibulus, could mutter about omens all he liked; he was intimidated and ignored to such an extent that the co-consul finally fled for the safety of his own home. It's rumoured that Pompey's soldiers even went as far as tipping a bucket of faeces over his head.

And Caesar didn't limit his rough treatment to his colleague. He imprisoned Cato for disagreeing with him and used Pompey's soldiers to clear the Forum of opposition. His methods were so outrageous it was certain that he would be tried for his crimes once he gave up office. Caesar was well aware of this and secured the position of proconsul in Gaul for a five-year tenure, despite Cato's objections, allowing him to leave Rome before he could be prosecuted. It was time for Caesar to face conflict on a much larger scale.

Cato was afraid that Caesar was going to use his position in Gaul to instigate conflict, and his concerns proved to be justified. Caesar immediately set about provoking Swiss tribe the Helvetii into an attack, which was the equivalent of a starter's pistol for years of relentless and wide-ranging campaigning. His attacks were ruthless and daring, and his responses to those of his enemies were quick-witted and precise.


The standard bearer of the 10th legion leading the charge onto British soil

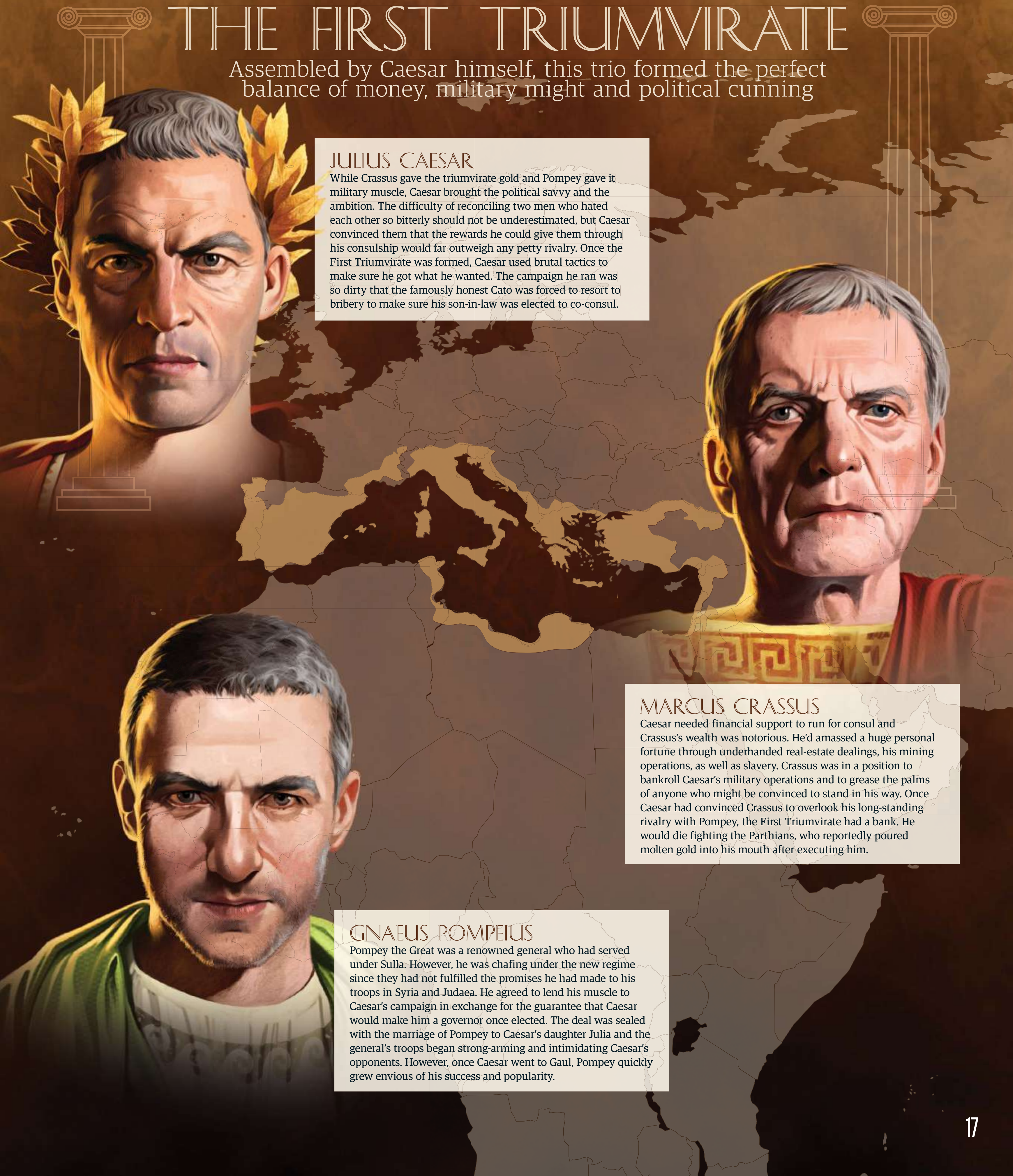
The Gallic and Germanic tribes were subdued between 57-55 BCE, at which point he sailed for Great Britain. There was no lasting success across the Channel but, as Cato had feared, tales of his ambitious exploits were getting back to Rome. Word reached the Senate that Gaul was pacified in 53 BCE. Cato could declare that Caesar was acting in his own interests and not those of the empire, but the people loved him for protecting Rome. Time and again, Caesar knew how to endear himself to the masses and camped near to Italy in winter to allow stories of his victories - not to mention treasure - to trickle back.

Even as he waged war across northern Europe, Caesar was aware that his time as proconsul would have to end. He knew all too well that once he returned to Rome he would face a serious list of charges, both from his time as consul and as a general. His attacks in Germany were so savage and fierce that he was forced to spin them to avoid losing popularity. But the farther Caesar took his army, the greater fortune he amassed and the more soldiers he was able to recruit. Unlike the Roman centurions, these men from Gaul and Germany had no loyalty to the empire; they were loyal to their general, and Caesar rewarded them well for it.

Back in Rome, the Senate was fully aware of Caesar's brutal strategies and growing military strength. Keen to ensure that the trial of Julius Caesar should proceed as smoothly as possible, they reached out to Caesar's old friend Pompey. Their relationship had always been built on the foundation of the

# THE FIRST TRIUMVIRATE

Assembled by Caesar himself, this trio formed the perfect balance of money, military might and political cunning



## JULIUS CAESAR

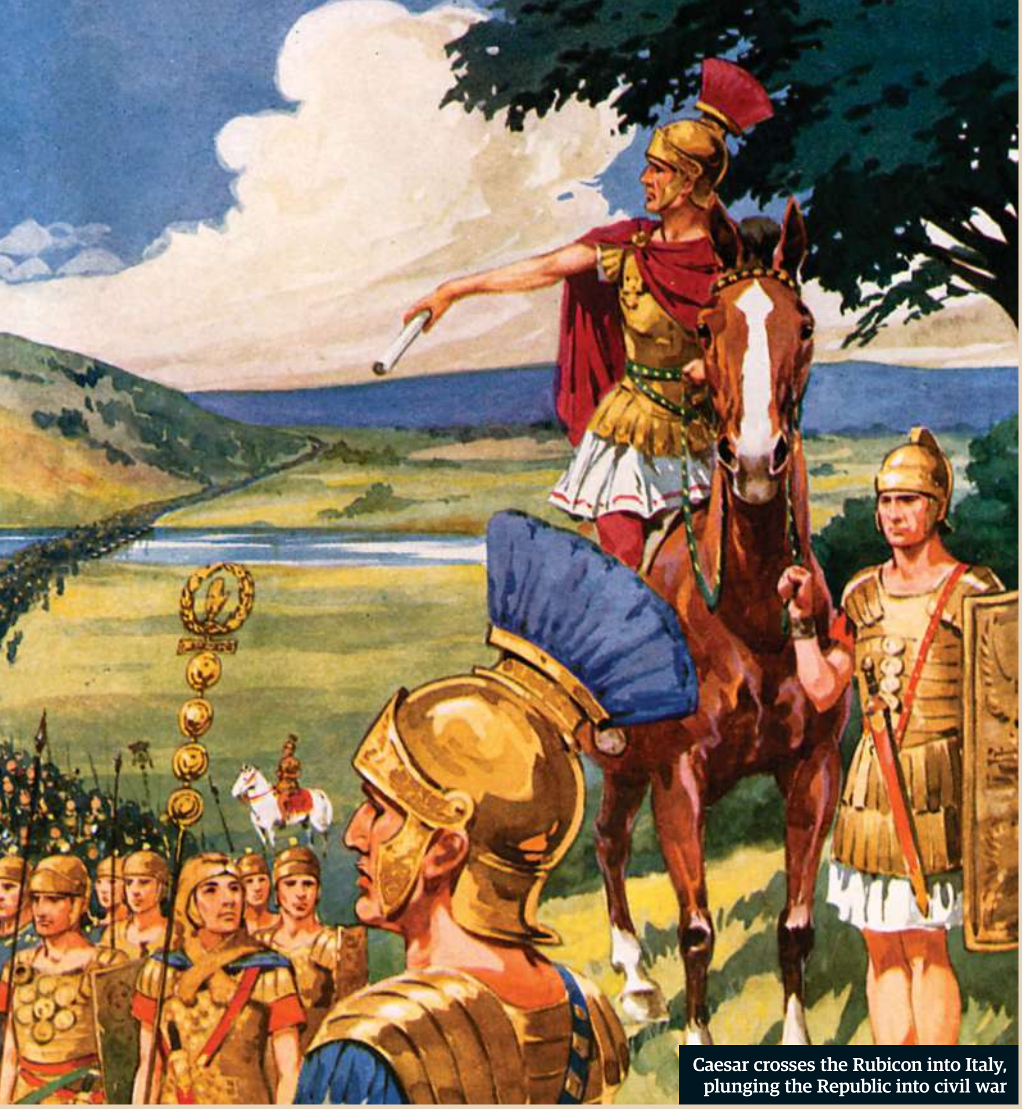
While Crassus gave the triumvirate gold and Pompey gave it military muscle, Caesar brought the political savvy and the ambition. The difficulty of reconciling two men who hated each other so bitterly should not be underestimated, but Caesar convinced them that the rewards he could give them through his consulship would far outweigh any petty rivalry. Once the First Triumvirate was formed, Caesar used brutal tactics to make sure he got what he wanted. The campaign he ran was so dirty that the famously honest Cato was forced to resort to bribery to make sure his son-in-law was elected to co-consul.

## MARCUS CRASSUS

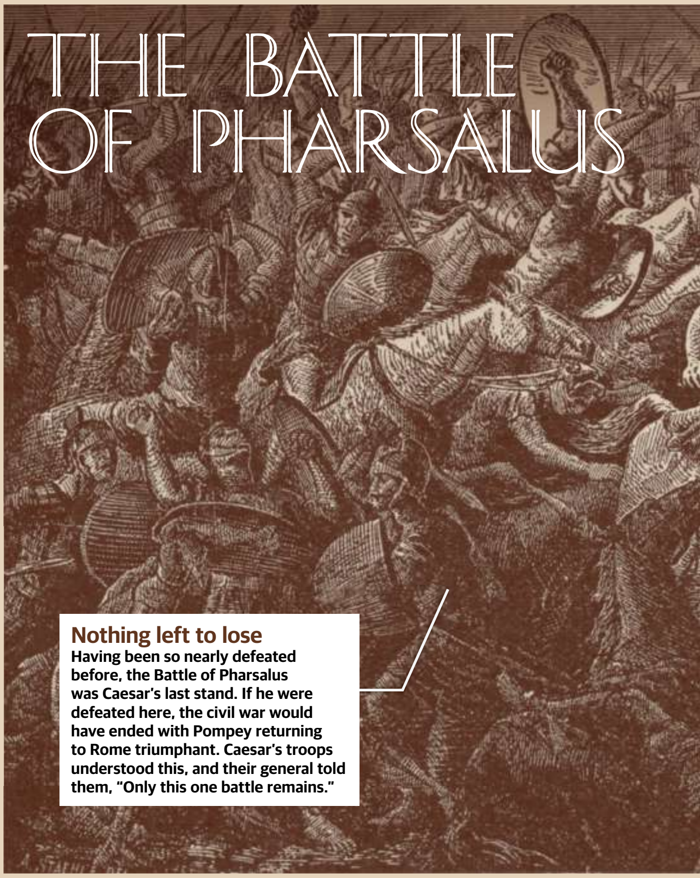
Caesar needed financial support to run for consul and Crassus's wealth was notorious. He'd amassed a huge personal fortune through underhanded real-estate dealings, his mining operations, as well as slavery. Crassus was in a position to bankroll Caesar's military operations and to grease the palms of anyone who might be convinced to stand in his way. Once Caesar had convinced Crassus to overlook his long-standing rivalry with Pompey, the First Triumvirate had a bank. He would die fighting the Parthians, who reportedly poured molten gold into his mouth after executing him.

## GNAEUS POMPEIUS

Pompey the Great was a renowned general who had served under Sulla. However, he was chafing under the new regime since they had not fulfilled the promises he had made to his troops in Syria and Judaea. He agreed to lend his muscle to Caesar's campaign in exchange for the guarantee that Caesar would make him a governor once elected. The deal was sealed with the marriage of Pompey to Caesar's daughter Julia and the general's troops began strong-arming and intimidating Caesar's opponents. However, once Caesar went to Gaul, Pompey quickly grew envious of his success and popularity.



Caesar crosses the Rubicon into Italy, plunging the Republic into civil war



## THE BATTLE OF PHARSALUS

**Nothing left to lose**
Having been so nearly defeated before, the Battle of Pharsalus was Caesar's last stand. If he were defeated here, the civil war would have ended with Pompey returning to Rome triumphant. Caesar's troops understood this, and their general told them, "Only this one battle remains."

latter's marriage to Caesar's daughter Julia, who had died in 54 BCE. Crassus, the third part of the triumvirate, had died while fighting the Parthians in 53, and Pompey was growing ever-more jealous of Caesar's success and popularity. With no ties left to the triumvirate, the Senate understood that Pompey would begin to question his allegiance.

The test came when Pompey was elected to sole consul in 52 BCE to handle an outbreak of rioting and his success gained the approval of the aristocrats. Buoyed by his victory and sudden popularity in the Senate, Pompey was convinced that removing Caesar from the political scene was the right thing to do. It would not be that easy. At this point, an attack from Gallic chieftain Vercingetorix, who knew of the riots in Rome, nearly destroyed Caesar. The Roman general had laid siege to the chieftain, but was forced to set up a wall to their rear when Gallic reinforcements arrived. The Romans came perilously close to defeat but an extraordinary last-minute counterattack won the day and finally confirmed that Caesar had conquered Gaul.

In late-50 BCE, preparations were underway for Caesar's return. Both Pompey and Caesar were ordered by the Senate to hand back their powers. But Caesar had no intention of being tried for his crimes and planned to run for consul in absentia. He hoped that the popularity he'd built up during his years at war would push the Senate into allowing this, and had published an account of his wars in Gaul to help remind the public of his many brave and successful military campaigns. *The Gallic Wars* was written using powerful, emotive language that could be read by anyone, not just the well-educated elite. Unlike Pompey, Caesar wasn't talking to the boxes – he was addressing the entire theatre. Despite this, the Senate refused and demanded that Caesar hand over command of his armies and return to Rome to face his accusers.

On 10 January 49 BCE, Caesar had essentially run out of options. If he did what the Senate demanded, he would be prosecuted and all his work would be for nothing. On the other hand, if he did not, it was an act of war.

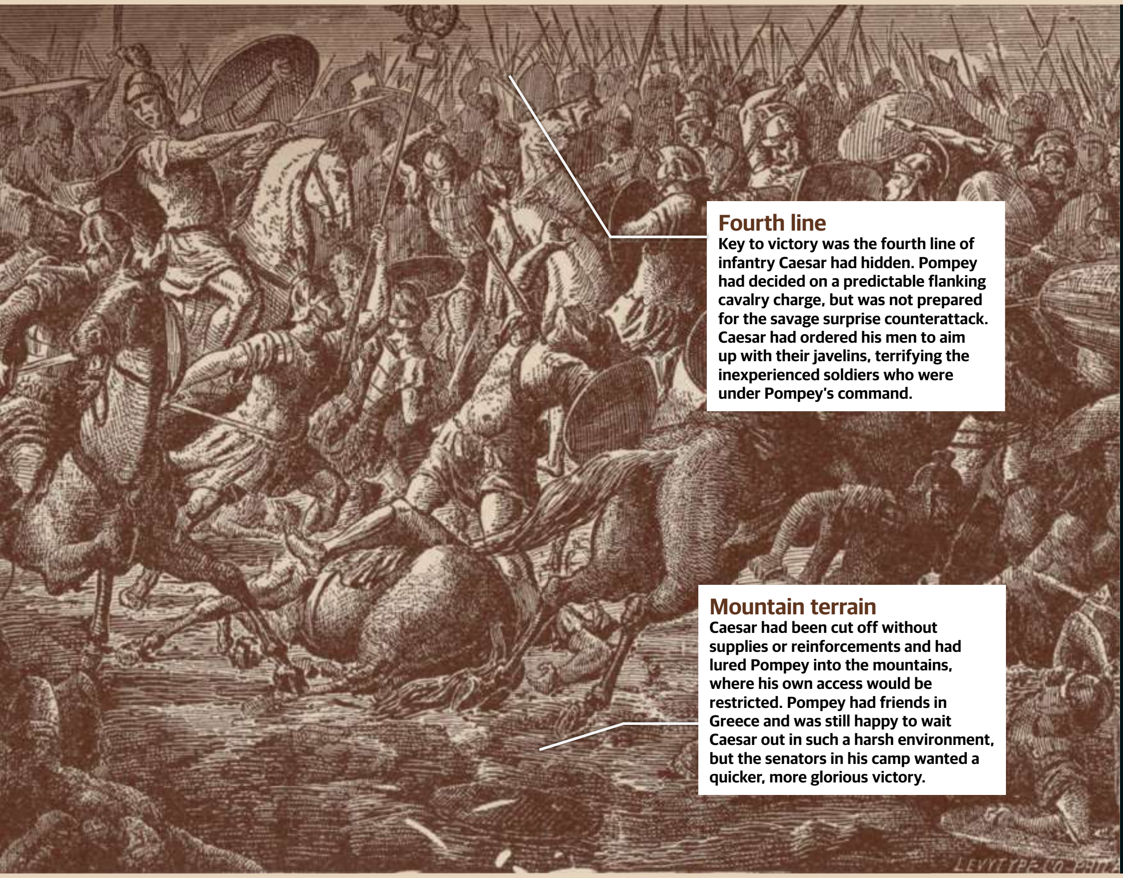
There are reports that Caesar was restless the night before, and even spoke with a spirit. Whatever happened and whatever hesitation he had felt, it was gone by morning. He assembled his forces and took the step that would change the course of history. "The die is cast," he proclaimed, and crossed the Rubicon River from Gaul into northern Italy. After decades of conflict with his enemies in the Senate, they were finally at war.

In their terror at his military might and daring, the Senate floundered. Caesar faced next to no opposition as he travelled into Italy. Pompey had blithely assumed that an attack wouldn't come until spring and most of his forces were still in Spain. After much panicked deliberating, Pompey announced that he would sail east to Greece to raise an army and that anybody opposing this plan would be a traitor. When Pompey slipped through his fingers, Caesar called a nearly deserted Senate together to approve military action in Spain.

While Pompey fled east , the new dictator wasted no time cutting a bloody swathe through his troops in the west. Pompey's forces were facing a determined, experienced army and Caesar's campaign was quick and brutal, decimating his opponents in just 27 days. Caesar then turned his attention back to his former ally and pursued him to Greece, where he was in the process of trying to raise another army. Caesar broke through a barricade set up by Bibulus, but he was cut off without supplies or reinforcements.

The subsequent fighting was disastrous and Caesar and his troops were on their last legs. Pompey had learned from his old friend's tactics in Gaul and set about starving his enemies. Caesar couldn't sit and wait Pompey out; if he was to win it would have to be on the battlefield. Finally, the two armies met at Pharsalus, where Caesar

> "Buoyed by his victory and popularity, Pompey was convinced that removing Caesar from the political scene was the right thing to do. It would not be that easy"



**Fourth line**
**Key to victory was the fourth line of infantry Caesar had hidden. Pompey had decided on a predictable flanking cavalry charge, but was not prepared for the savage surprise counterattack. Caesar had ordered his men to aim up with their javelins, terrifying the inexperienced soldiers who were under Pompey's command.**

**Mountain terrain**
**Caesar had been cut off without supplies or reinforcements and had lured Pompey into the mountains, where his own access would be restricted. Pompey had friends in Greece and was still happy to wait Caesar out in such a harsh environment, but the senators in his camp wanted a quicker, more glorious victory.**

Separated from his legions in Spain, Pompey had fled to Greece to raise another army. After decimating his old ally's forces in the west, Caesar followed him east.

Unlike Pompey, Caesar had no allies in Greece. He was outnumbered, and any reinforcements and supplies had been cut off. It was by sheer force of will that his army managed to keep up their campaign, but Caesar knew he was fast running out of time. He needed an even playing field and marched away from the sea and into the mountains, hoping Pompey would follow.

Pompey, meanwhile, had been buoyed by a major victory over Caesar's forces at Dyrrachium, but he was pained by the fact he could have beaten his enemy once and for all if he had pressed on. Once he caught up near Pharsalus, Pompey attempted to starve Caesar out, while Caesar in return wanted to coax him into open battle. The two sat at stalemate until Pompey's impatient senators told him they wanted victory now.

Despite holding the higher ground, the better supplies and the far superior numbers, Pompey used a tactic that Caesar knew all too well. While attempting to outflank Caesar's forces, Pompey did not see that his opponent had created a hidden fourth line of infantry. The flanking cavalry charged but did not anticipate the savage counterattack that followed. As instructed, Caesar's troops stabbed up at the cavalry with their javelins, terrifying Pompey's young aristocratic commanders who were unused to such a fierce tactic. The cavalry retreated and this fourth line gave chase, followed by the fresh third line. Pompey's forces were crushed and the general himself fled to Egypt. The decisive battle of the Caesar's Civil War had been won.

delivered a stunningly decisive victory against overwhelming odds (looked at in more detail in the boxout). Once again, Pompey was in the wind.

As Pompey fled south to Egypt, Caesar returned to Rome to pronounce himself dictator, but resigned after just 11 days before picking up the chase once again. However, if he expected a fight, he wasn't going to get one. Pompey had been betrayed by the very people he had sought sanctuary from, and his corpse was presented to Caesar by the child pharaoh Ptolemy XIII as a tribute. They didn't get the reaction they were expecting. Caesar was reduced to tears and ordered the execution of those who had slain his enemy. The final obstacle to his absolute power had been removed.

Looking out on the Nile, Caesar was able to see what such power could mean. He fell for Cleopatra after she reportedly smuggled herself into his rooms wrapped in a carpet and, acting out of sympathy for her and his own anger about the execution of Pompey, he fought with her against her brother Ptolemy in the Egyptian Civil War. The fighting that ensued was known as the Siege of Alexandria, during which Ptolemy refused Caesar's offers of peace and paid the ultimate price, drowning during the Battle of the Nile. The Egyptian queen claimed to have had a son named Caesarion with her lover, but he would never acknowledge that the boy was his. Once Cleopatra was firmly established on the throne of Egypt, Caesar sailed to Asia Minor to quash a rebellion led by Pharnaces. His victory was so swift that it led to his famous boast "Veni, vidi, vici." The words "I came, I saw, I conquered" weren't specific to this single battle. Caesar was unstoppable.

Even as he celebrated victory, Caesar knew he had spent too long abroad and needed to establish and maintain his power in Rome. It was vital that power be absolute, but gave the appearance of not being so. He was elected as Rome's dictator in 48 BCE for a term of one year. He spent this time mopping up the final resistance to his rule, including Pompey's sons in Spain and the elusive Cato in Utica, Tunisia. The hunt for the latter would take Caesar to North Africa, where he would defeat the troops of Scipio and offer them no mercy. In a final act of defiance, Cato took his own life rather than face an empire under Caesar's sole rule.

The Senate rewarded Caesar's triumphs by appointing him dictator for ten years. With Pompey's supporters disposed of, Caesar returned to Rome to reform the empire. His plan was threefold. He needed to ensure that there was no military resistance to him; he needed to deal with the serious debt that Rome had accumulated during its years at war; and he needed to turn the empire from a collection of states into one nation. Between 48 BCE and his assassination in 44, Caesar would show himself to be far more than a military dictator, not only laying the foundations for but taking the first decisive steps towards making the Roman Empire what it would become. The 60-odd men who conspired against and assassinated him in the Senate on 15 March 44 BCE may have succeeded in their task, but Caesar's legacy had long since been assured.

## CAESAR THE DICTATOR

Throughout his regime, Caesar had used the approval of the people to his advantage. When he returned to Rome having defeated Pompey, Caesar knew it was crucial to keep the people onside. Mistakes were made along the way though. When he celebrated his win over Pompey's son in Spain, it was seen as a serious faux-pas as such festivities were reserved for victories over foreign foes, not the sons of former consuls.

His political reforms, however, addressed some of the major concerns many had aired. He understood that, if Rome was to truly be an empire, it could no longer hold back the benefits of living under Roman rule from those living outside Italy. With this in mind, he opened up citizenship to those living in Gaul, and encouraged people to relocate to the empire's territories. He reduced debt and he ensured that soldiers who had fought for him would have land to settle on. He also introduced the new calendar, aligning the months with the solar year rather than the Moon.

To ensure opposition against him in the Senate was minimal, Caesar expanded their ranks. Each position was now open to more candidates, making the aristocratic elite that opposed him less of a majority. Although he wore the purple robes of a king, sat on a throne in the Senate and had his face on the empire's coins, Caesar was careful to keep up appearances that he was a duly elected official. The ease with which his loyal general Mark Antony was able to step into power and pursue those who had assassinated Caesar shows the level of popularity the late ruler had maintained during his years as Rome's dictator.

© Getty, Look and Learn, Joe Cummings

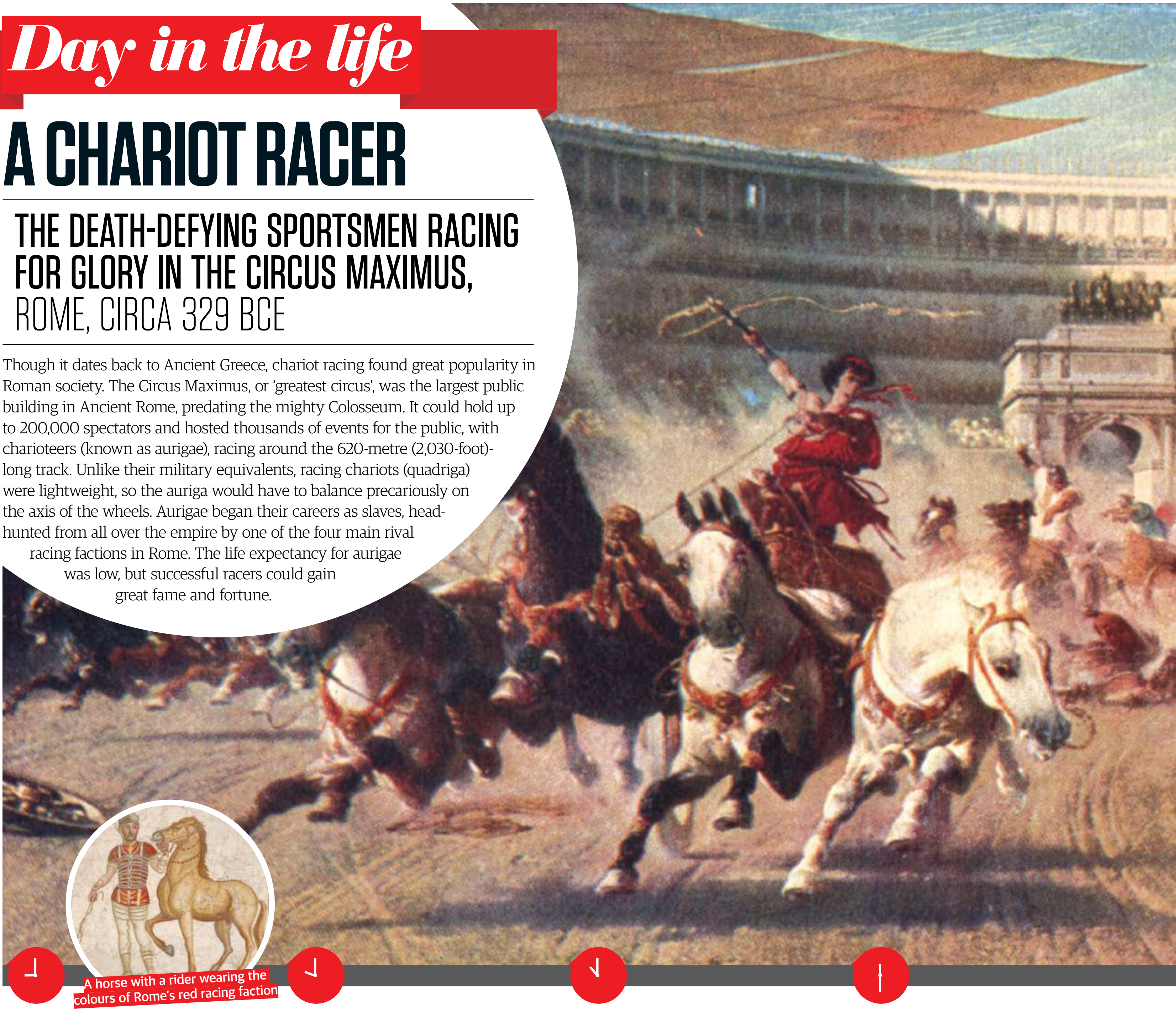
## Day in the life

# A CHARIOT RACER

## THE DEATH-DEFYING SPORTSMEN RACING FOR GLORY IN THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS,

ROME, CIRCA 329 BCE

Though it dates back to Ancient Greece, chariot racing found great popularity in Roman society. The Circus Maximus, or 'greatest circus', was the largest public building in Ancient Rome, predating the mighty Colosseum. It could hold up to 200,000 spectators and hosted thousands of events for the public, with charioteers (known as aurigae), racing around the 620-metre (2,030-foot)-long track. Unlike their military equivalents, racing chariots (quadriga) were lightweight, so the auriga would have to balance precariously on the axis of the wheels. Aurigae began their careers as slaves, head-hunted from all over the empire by one of the four main rival racing factions in Rome. The life expectancy for aurigae was low, but successful racers could gain great fame and fortune.



A horse with a rider wearing the colours of Rome's red racing faction

## PREPARATION AT THE STABLES

Each chariot team paid handsomely for the empire's finest horses and the animals were often prized higher than most aurigae. Before a race, the stable would be busy with servants preparing the quadriga with the faction's colours. The conditor – overseer of the stable – would be ensuring all the horses and the aurigae were ready for the race ahead.

## TRAINING FOR THE MAIN EVENT

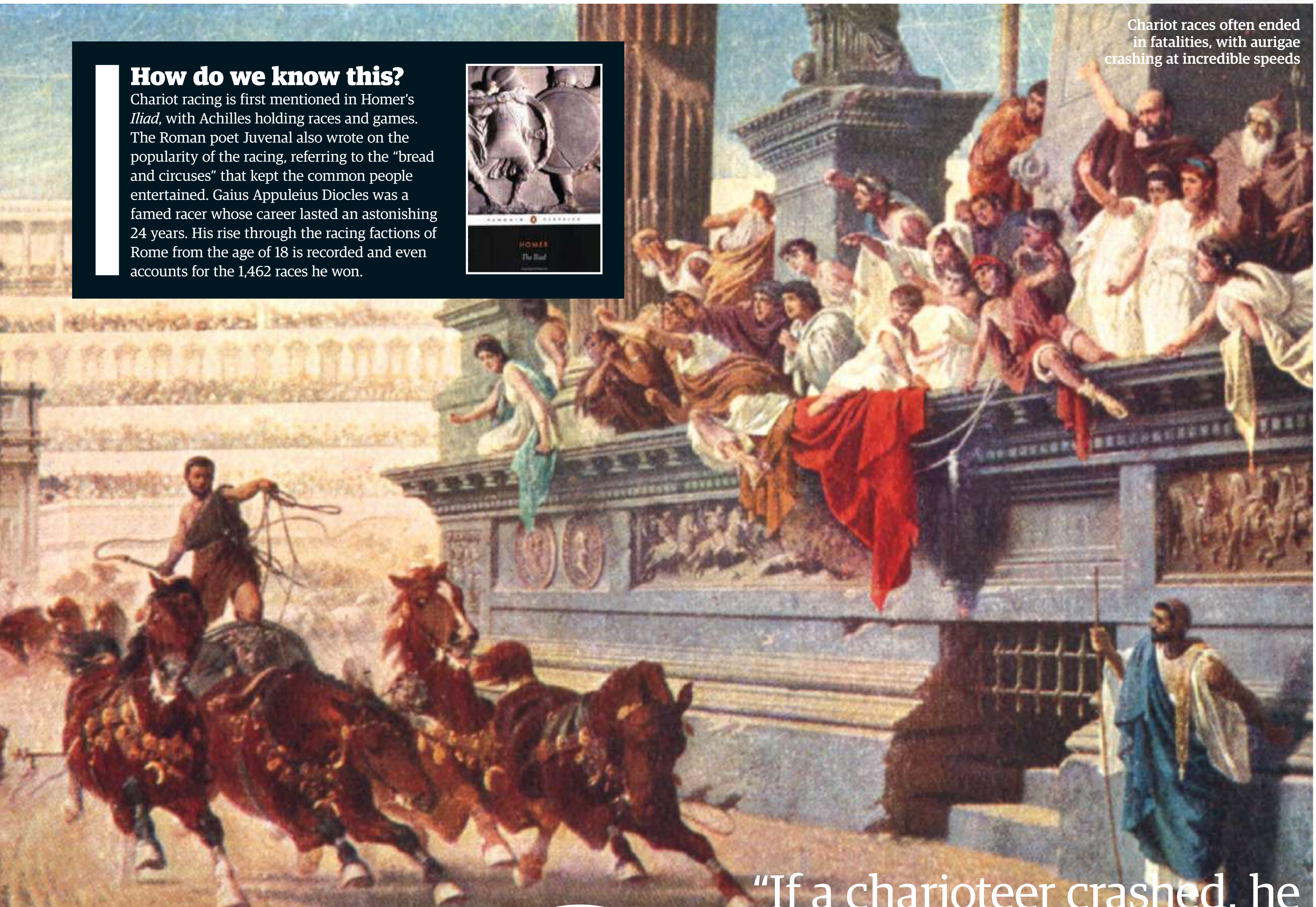
The horse at the far left of the four pulling the chariot would be the best trained, as it would have to be fearless when sprinting next to the spina, the central island running at the centre of the circus track. Each auriga would be skilled at controlling all his horses, which sometimes numbered as many as eight – they directed with their left hand and whipped with the right.

## SABOTAGE, BETTING AND CURSING

The bitter rivalry between the racing factions was felt just as strongly by their supporters. There are accounts of curses written into tablets, applying to the gods to bring misfortune to the opposing charioteers. Horses would sometimes be poisoned by rival fans, or even the stable staff of an opposing faction, so even before the race the chariot racer had to be on their guard.

## OPENING PARADE

A great procession, led by the main sponsor of that day's race – yes, there were sponsors even back then – would begin the day's events. It was usual for certain gods to be selected to be honoured on race day, so priests carrying statues of Mars and Jupiter, for example, would also be in the procession. Musicians and the teams would also be in the parade, flying the respective colours of their faction to the assembled crowd.



Chariot races often ended in fatalities, with aurigae crashing at incredible speeds

## How do we know this?

Chariot racing is first mentioned in Homer's *Iliad*, with Achilles holding races and games. The Roman poet Juvenal also wrote on the popularity of the racing, referring to the "bread and circuses" that kept the common people entertained. Gaius Appuleius Diocles was a famed racer whose career lasted an astonishing 24 years. His rise through the racing factions of Rome from the age of 18 is recorded and even accounts for the 1,462 races he won.

> "If a charioteer crashed, he would have to cut himself free from the reins or likely be trampled to death"

Crashes were common and would often cause a pile-up near the inside track

## STARTING POSITIONS

Up to 12 chariot teams, three from each faction, would gather at the start line in the carceres, or starting gates, that were built across the width of the track. Each charioteer would strap the four reins of the horses around his waist, so he could better control the animals with his weight alone. They would all be looking for the mittere signum, or signal to start the race, given by an official, such as a magistrate or city praetor.

## RACING

At the start of the race there would be an instant scrap to gain a good position on the course, which was as close to the spina as possible. Racers would gain the upper hand on their opponents by colliding with their chariots, as well as spurring their horses on with a whip. If a charioteer crashed, he would have to quickly cut himself free from the reins with his knife or likely be trampled to death by his competitors.

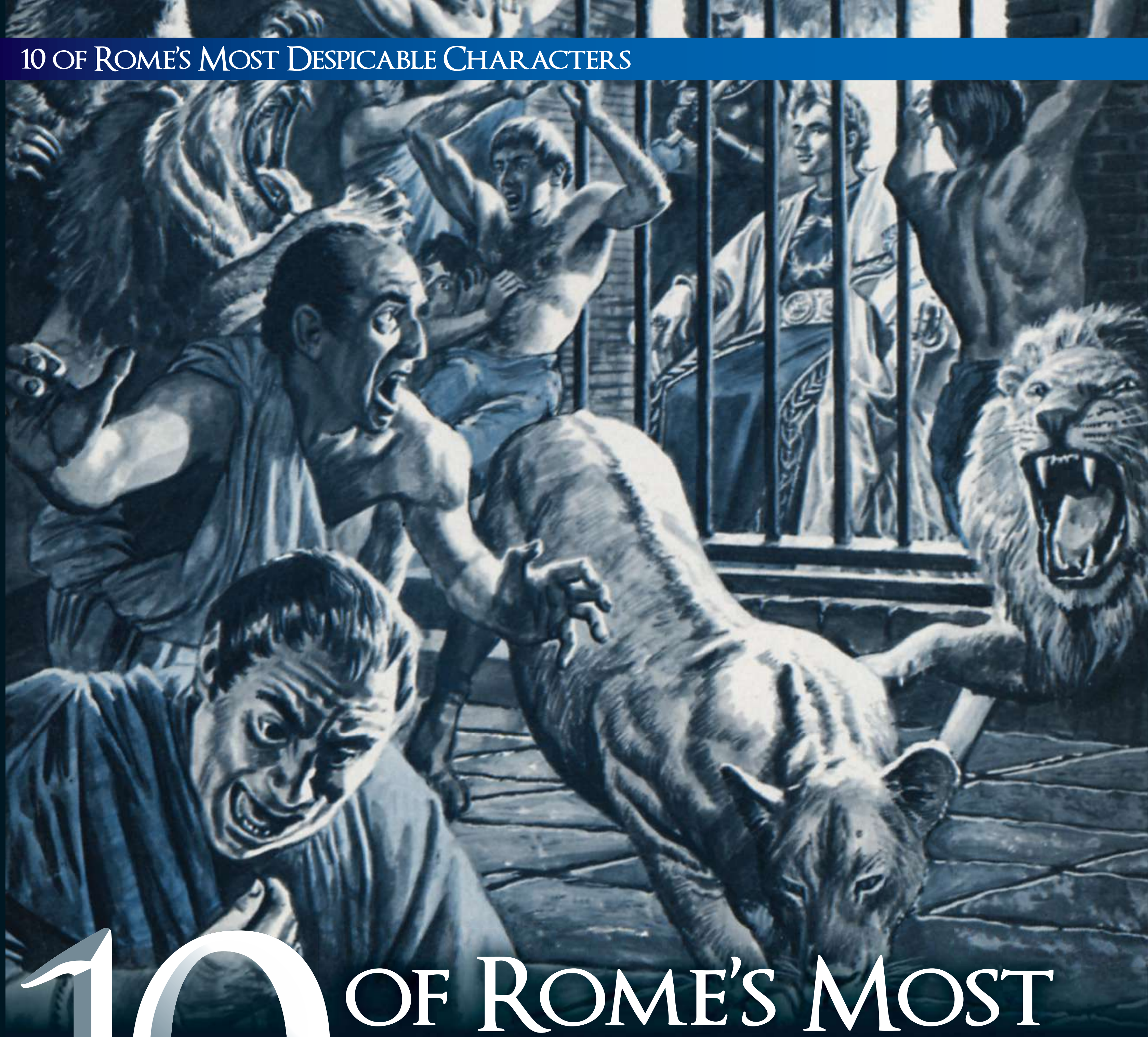
## VICTORY LAP

The victorious charioteer would be presented with a palm branch and a laurel by the race official. The entire race team would receive prize money and would parade around the Circus to the cheers of their supporters. Particularly successful chariot racers were held up as heroes - particularly by the 'mob' - and often able to save enough to buy their own freedom. There are even examples of racers who became extremely wealthy.

## PARTY AT THE CLUBHOUSE

Each of the chariot-racing factions in Rome - the red, green, white and blue - had club houses located throughout the city. Here fans and stable staff would gather to celebrate victories and praise their charioteers, even if they merely survived the deadly races. The life expectancy of chariot racers was so short that being alive at the end of the day was cause for celebration.

© Alamy; Corbis



# 10 OF ROME'S MOST DESPICABLE CHARACTERS

Written by
Frances White

From crazed emperors to ruthless soldiers, meet some of the most depraved and treacherous characters that lurked in the darkest depths of the Roman Empire

Roads, aqueducts, newspapers - these are just a few of the inventions the Roman Empire gave to the world. Not only was the empire home to the first shopping mall, but it also helped to create the system of social welfare that we use today, transforming an uncivilised old world into one of innovation and splendour. But there is a dark and sinister underbelly of this renowned ancient civilisation, one that runs thick with corruption, deceit and blood. A beacon of progress and luxury the empire may have been, but it housed some of the most depraved and disturbing men and women to ever grace the planet, making Rome one of the most dangerous places to live in the world.

From the world's first serial killer who rented her services out, to the teenage emperor whose idea of a good time was hiding lions in the beds of his guests, we examine some of the most menacing and memorable characters born of a world where almost anyone could be emperor, and where those in power could trust no one.

## GAIUS VERRES 120-43 BCE

### The greed that brought Sicily to its knees

**Profession:** Magistrate
**Infamous for:** Destroying the lives of an entire nation

X

Born to a father who was accused of corruption himself, Verres would grow up to become one of the most abhorrent personifications of the Roman Republic's depraved final years. He became a financial administrator to a consul, and when civil war broke out he used his power to embezzle military funds. In 80 BCE he joined the staff of Governor Dolabella of Cilicia, and indulged his passion for works of art by stripping the temples of their paintings and statues for his own collection. When Dolabella stood trial for his extortions, Verres gave evidence to get him convicted and received a pardon for his own crimes as a result.

In 74 BCE he was appointed governor of Sicily, a rich and profitable province of the empire. The land had previously enjoyed a relatively peaceful and prosperous history, but Verres's appointment sent that crashing down. When wealthy Sicilians died, Verres would use his corrupt judges to get a slice of the inheritance. If judges refused to comply they were swiftly killed. He ordered grand statues to be built in his likeness, abolished a successful agricultural system, thereby throwing farmers into abject poverty, and turned a prosperous trading nation into one that struggled to feed its own citizens. His henchmen prowled the country for works of art for their master and seized whatever they liked - even brazenly stealing a public statue of Mercury.

Verres's luck finally ran out when he was made to return to Rome after the pleas of desperate Sicilians. Although he tried to buy his way out of his trial, he was ultimately forced into exile.

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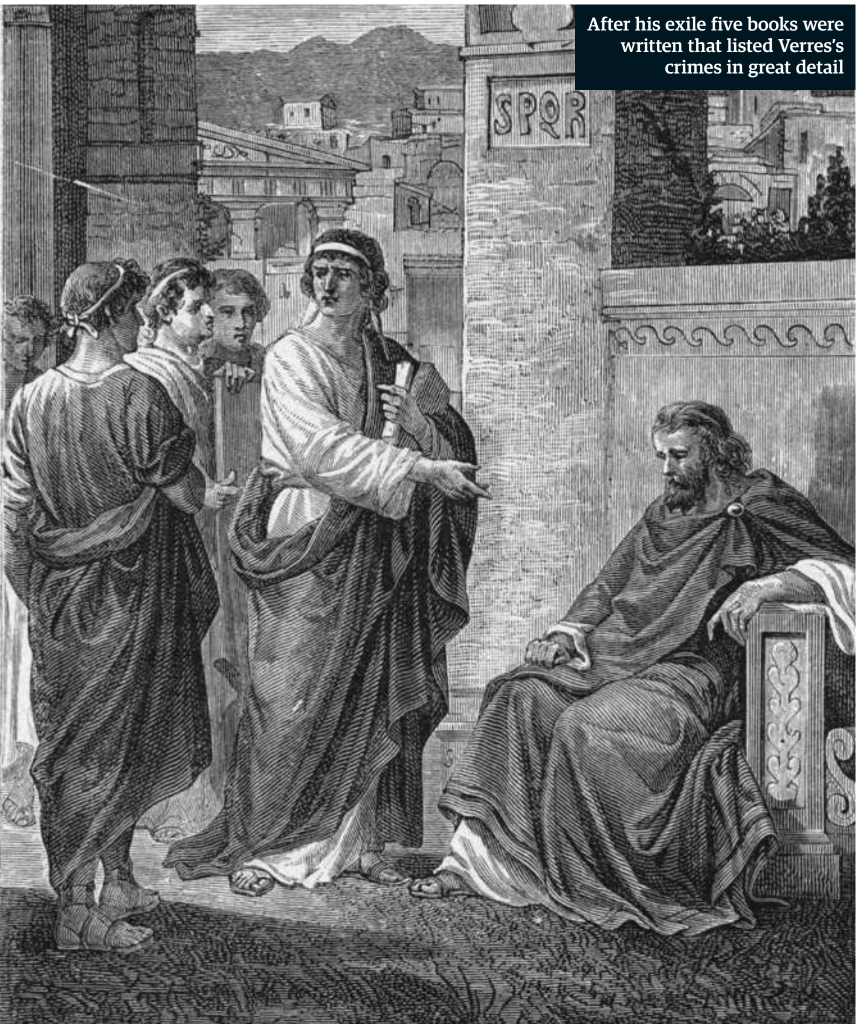


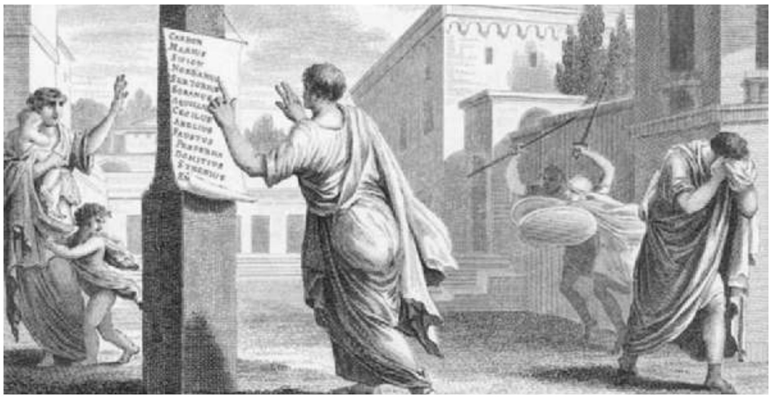
After his exile five books were written that listed Verres's crimes in great detail

## ANCIENT ROME'S SHINING LIGHT

### The emperor who set an example

Roman emperors are often portrayed as being vain, greedy, bloodthirsty and downright insane, killing their rivals and having no concern for their people, but this isn't entirely true. One period of Roman history known as the 'reign of the five good emperors' is notable, as all five men succeeded the throne by adoption, rather than birth, and had far more stable and successful rules than their blood-right counterparts. No one exemplifies this period more than Emperor Trajan.

After previous relations had been strained, Trajan worked closely with the Senate and delighted the public when he called many exiled Greek intellectuals back to Rome. He also encouraged the building of notable structures that transformed Rome's landscape, such as Trajan's Column and the Alcantara Bridge. He implemented many social-welfare policies and was honoured by the Senate as "the best ruler." Trajan was also a powerful and capable military commander, expanding the Roman Empire to its largest size. Trajan and his just rule were so revered by the Romans that every new emperor was hailed by the prayer: "Be luckier than Augustus and better than Trajan."



## LUCIUS CORNELIUS SULLA 138-78 BCE

### The dictator who dealt in fear and death

**Profession:** Dictator
**Infamous for:** Purging Rome of 9,000 people

IX

Born into relative poverty, Sulla was led by his ruthless spirit to become a famed general and eventual dictator of the Roman Empire. Sulla was a beloved general among his troops, but he also had a ruthless and vicious streak that emerged in his 'proscription'.

As soon as he grasped control of Rome, Sulla was determined to purge the land of anyone he perceived as an enemy. The Greek historian Plutarch wrote: "Sulla now began to make blood flow, and he filled the city with deaths without number or limit." Sulla officially ordered the execution of some 1,500 people, but it is believed that more than 9,000 lost their lives in this brutal purge. A young Julius Caesar only just managed to escape the city. Anyone who dared to shelter a proscribed person would also face death, and the sons and grandsons of the named person were barred from political office. The property of anyone who was executed would be sold off at auction, giving Sulla and his supporters great expanses of wealth.

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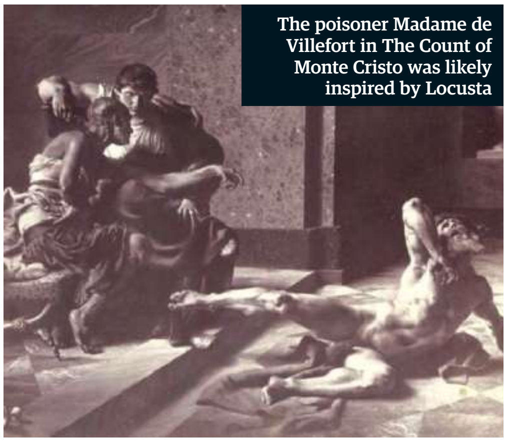
The poisoner Madame de Villefort in The Count of Monte Cristo was likely inspired by Locusta

## Locusta of Gaul

UNKNOWN-69 CE

### The world's first serial killer

**Profession:** Killer for hire
**Infamous for:** Poisoning Emperor Claudius

VIII Growing up in the quiet countryside of Gaul, Locusta learned much about the herbs and plants that grew around her home. Upon moving to Rome, she found her knowledge of herbal lore desired by ambitious men who wished to get rid of their rivals. She began a business as a professional poisoner and made a name for herself. In 54 CE she attracted her most influential patron yet, Empress Agrippa. The wife of Emperor Claudius requested help in killing her husband so her young son, Nero, could claim the throne.

After getting him drunk, they fed him poisoned mushrooms, quickly suffered extreme stomach pains and died. Locusta's talents were required again when Nero ordered her to poison his stepbrother and rival to the throne, Britannicus. When the boy consumed the poison he went into mad convulsions, but Nero calmly told everyone present that he was epileptic. The dinner party continued and Britannicus died a few hours later.

Nero rewarded Locusta richly for her assistance, lavishing her with a grand villa and luxurious gifts. With the emperor on her side, her skills became so renowned that she set up a school where she bestowed her knowledge on eager students. Locusta even gave Nero a poison kit of his own to use in the event of taking his own life. Unfortunately, when Nero was condemned to death in 68 CE, he forgot the kit and had to use his own dagger. With her most powerful ally gone, Locusta was arrested and led through the city in chains before being executed.

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## Marcus Perpenna Vento

UNKNOWN-72 BCE

### History's worst-ever dinner host

**Profession:** Statesman
**Infamous for:** Betraying and murdering a guest

VII When the military faction he belonged to was defeated by Lucius Cornelius Sulla, Perpenna fled Rome with a small army and a wealth of money. With a greedy desire to rule, he decided to wage war against Quintus Caecillius Metellus Pius of the region he had escaped to - Hispania. But Perpenna was a terrible leader and his soldiers soon rebelled against him, demanding to be handed over to Sertorius, the ruler of Hispania. Facing his own death, Perpenna agreed with great humiliation.

Still licking his scars, Perpenna could only watch on as Sertorius grew stronger and stronger. Perpenna encouraged the disdain of his fellow nobles and senators, hoping to feed on their jealousy for his own gain. Uprisings and revolts plagued the region, as the popular and eloquent Sertorius struggled to find the source of discontent. When Sertorius won yet another victory, Perpenna invited him to a feast in his honour. The celebration, usually an occasion of much festivity, was specially designed to offend and disgust the famed general. Pushed to breaking point, Sertorius resigned to silently ignoring the humiliation. Perpenna used this opportunity to set his minions upon the unsuspecting guest, slaughtering him before he had a chance to defend himself. Perpenna's retribution was swift and brutal: faced with the anger of an even more powerful enemy - Pompey - he hopelessly pled for his life, offering all of Sertorius's papers. Pompey agreed, but when he was given the papers he burned them and executed the betrayer.

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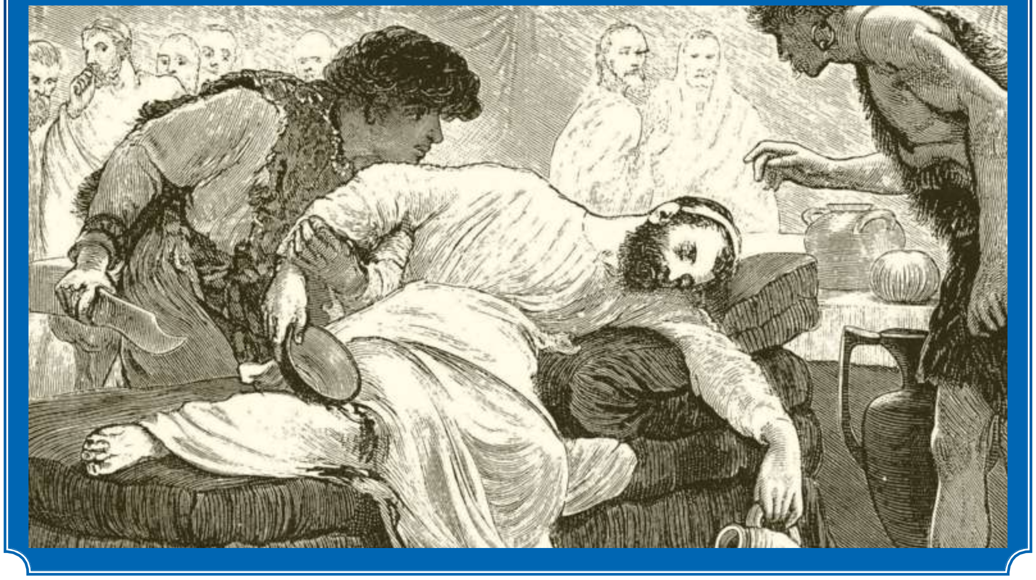


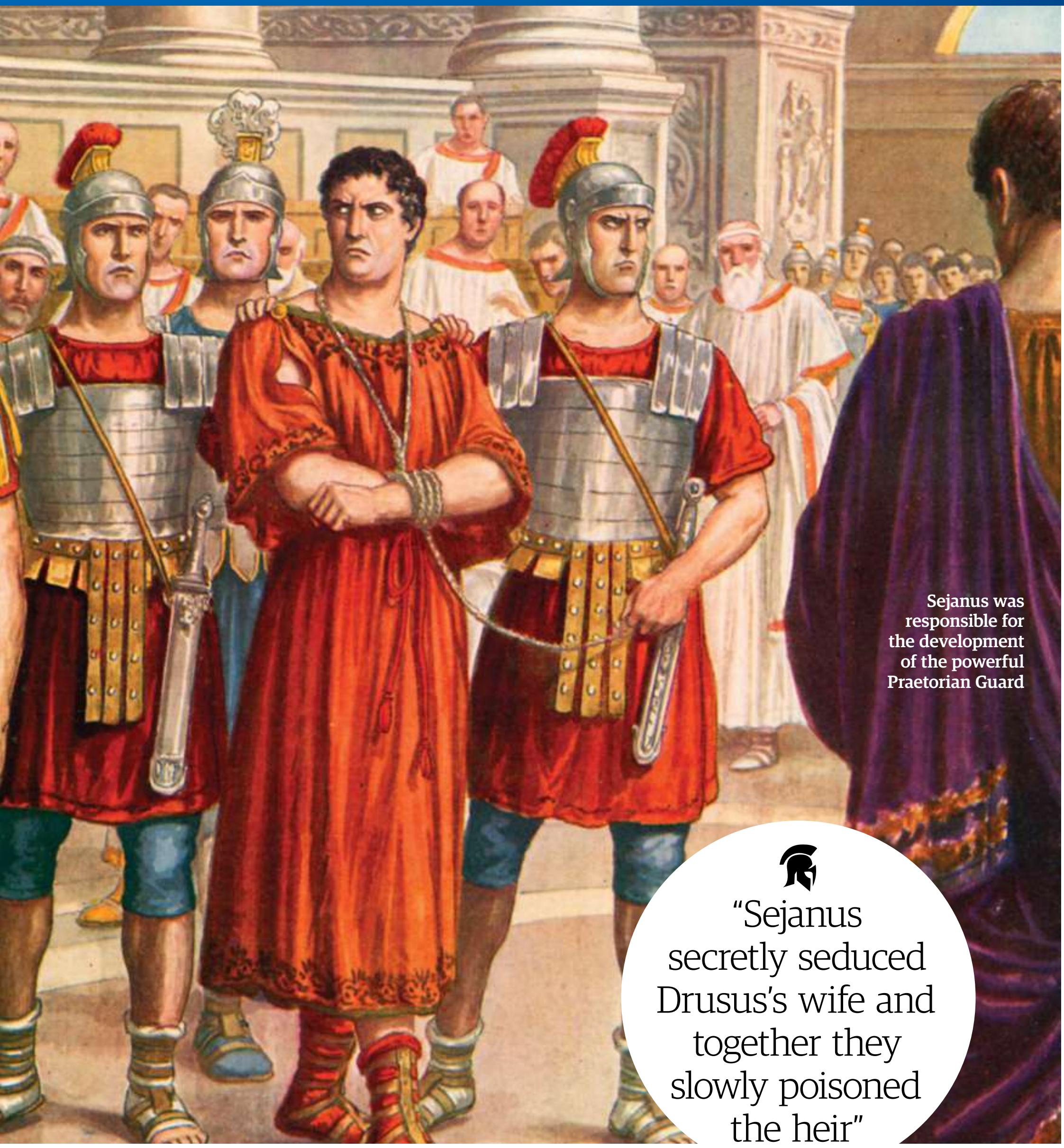
## Shocking pastimes

### The depraved and vulgar activities that filled a Roman's spare time

**Purging at feasts**
The decadent, grand feasts of Ancient Rome are no well-kept secret. More unknown, however, is their penchant for vomiting during these feasts. Wealthy Romans loved their food so much that when they were full, they would induce vomiting so they could continue eating. This was considered a part of fine dining, and slaves were present to clear up any vomit that surfaced during the feast.

**Slave abuse**
The slave trade in Ancient Rome was a cornerstone of the economy, and the slaves themselves were treated as little less than tradable goods. As they were regarded as property, Roman law didn't view slave sex as infidelity. Seen as having 'no persona', Roman slaves would be sold at auctions or even in shops. If a slave was deemed as having defects, the buyer could take the slave back within six months for a refund.

**Lewd graffiti**
Some of the most impressive works of art originate from Ancient Rome, but they were also involved in a different art form - graffiti - and the messages were just as rude as today. Experts were surprised by the amount of graffiti on the walls of Pompeii. The messages include boasting, insults and profanities, such as "Phileros is a eunuch", "Celadus makes the girls moan" and "The boss isn't worth a rat's ass!"



Sejanus was responsible for the development of the powerful Praetorian Guard

> "Sejanus secretly seduced Drusus's wife and together they slowly poisoned the heir"

## SEJANUS 20BCE-31CE The emperor's puppet master

**Profession:** Soldier

**Infamous for:** Purging Rome of any who dared defy him

**VI** Born into the lower upper social class of the Roman Republic, Sejanus was led by pure ambition and drive to succeed. Slowly but surely Sejanus began to creep closer to Emperor Tiberius, and by 23 CE he held great influence over the decisions of the emperor, with Tiberius referring to his confidant as "Socius Laborum" or "My partner in my toils."

Sejanus consolidated his power by swiftly eliminating any potential opponents, but his primary target was the emperor's son, Drusus. The rivalry between the two was no secret, and Drusus had publicly punched Sejanus during an argument, voicing his objection that a "stranger was invited to assist in the government while the emperor's son was alive." Sejanus secretly seduced Drusus's wife and together they slowly poisoned the heir until he died of apparent natural causes in 23 CE.

Struck by grief, Tiberius bestowed most of his power to Sejanus. With effective control of Rome, Sejanus led a brutal purge of senators and powerful men. During the purge, Sejanus managed to exile the ambitious widow of Germanius, Agrippina, and two of her sons, who seemingly starved to death. With statues erected in his honour and his rivals crippled by fear and tyranny, Sejanus was Rome's most powerful man.

Tiberius was alerted to the growing threat and summoned Sejanus to a Senate meeting where he was ambushed and arrested. He was strangled and his body cast down the Gemonian stairs of execution, where a riotous mob tore it to pieces. So furious were the people with Sejanus's deception that they hunted down and killed anyone associated with him.

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## MARCUS LICINIUS CRASSUS

115-53BCE

The man who amassed wealth from others misfortune

**Profession:** General

**Infamous for:** Executing 6,000 slaves

**V** Crassus is thought to be the richest man in the history of Rome, with an estimated 200 million sestertii, or about £5.4 billion ($8.4 billion), but he did not earn his fortune from entirely moral means.

One of Crassus's moneymaking enterprises was control of the only fire department in Rome. When a fire broke out, Crassus and his team would arrive at the site and haggle with the owner of the property, offering to purchase the doomed building at an outrageously low price. The owner would have to look on hopelessly as their home burned, and more often than not would hand over the property to Crassus. Then Crassus's slaves would move in and eliminate the fire. Once Crassus had acquired the house he would rent it back to the previous owner for a profit.

As his wealth poured in, Crassus was able to buy his way into political power, serving as a member of the First Triumvirate with Julius Caesar and Pompey. Crassus also led his own army against the slave uprising of Spartacus. He controlled his force with fear and when any soldier fled from battle, he executed one out of every ten men. When victory was finally achieved, Crassus demonstrated his brutal and bloody streak by crucifying 6,000 of Spartacus's followers.

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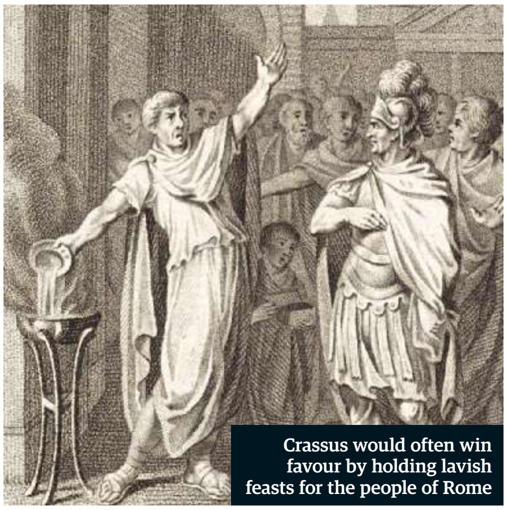
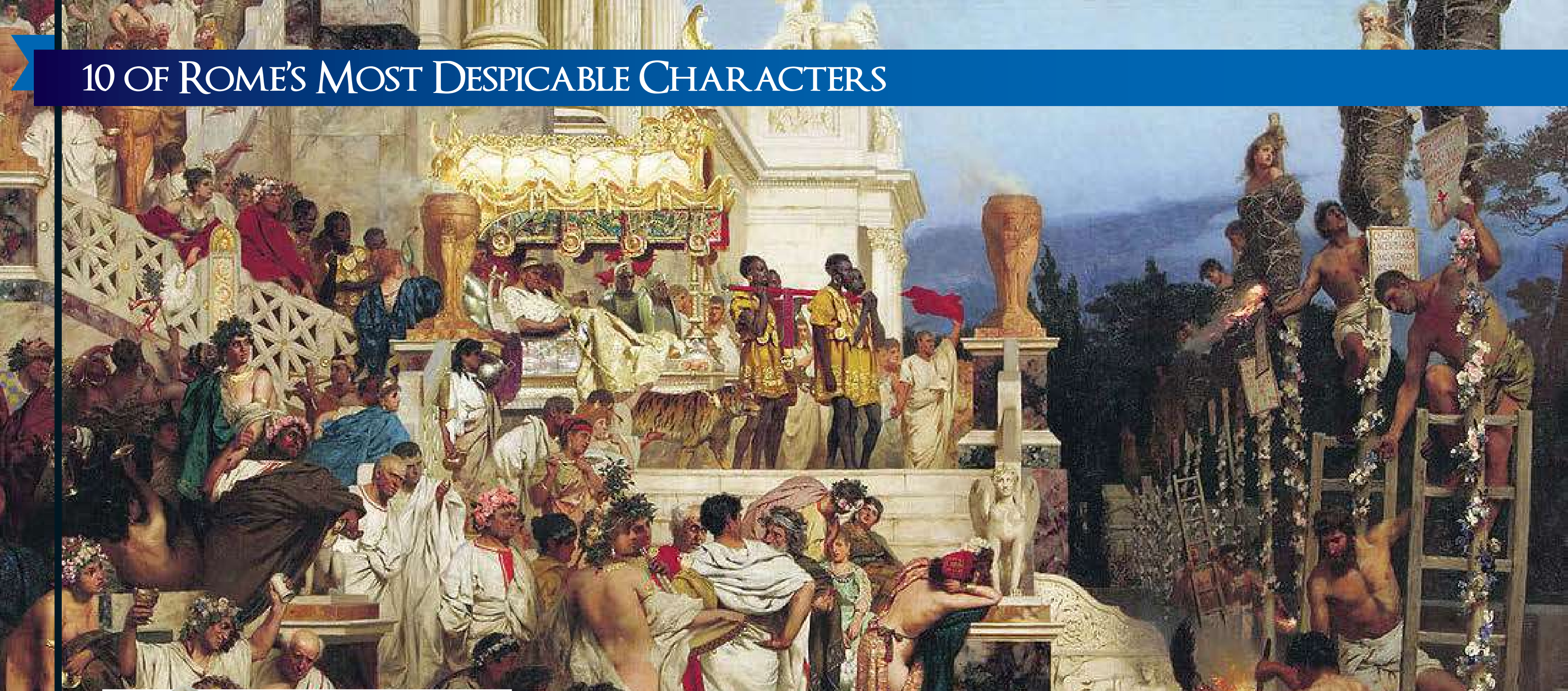


Crassus would often win favour by holding lavish feasts for the people of Rome



## NERO 37-68 CE

### Evil incarnate in a single man

**Profession:** Emperor
**Infamous for:** The mass slaughter of Christians

IV

One of history's most infamous leaders, Nero won his throne through murder, and death is what he brought to Rome. Although his mother's actions had helped him become emperor, Nero became wary of her influence. He attempted to kill his mother in a shipwreck, but when she survived he ordered her assassination, masking it as suicide.

He continued his bloody reign by divorcing his first wife before having her beheaded, apparently bringing her head to his second wife. She didn't fare much better, as Nero reportedly kicked her to death while she was pregnant. On a quest for ultimate power, Nero punished anyone who spoke ill of him or the Senate with exile or death. He hunted down his rivals and had them killed. When he was accused of treason, he simply had the accusers executed too.

A frequent visitor of bars and brothels, when a great fire decimated the city Nero spent a vast amount of the empire's money constructing a grand palace featuring a 30-metre (98-foot)-tall statue of himself. To retain some popularity, Nero blamed the fire on Christians, who faced horrific persecution as a result. They were arrested, impaled, torn apart by vicious dogs and even burned as torches to light his gardens.

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> "Nero severely punished anyone who spoke ill of him or the Senate with exile or death"

## ELAGABALUS 203-222

### The boy emperor and his deadly practical jokes

**Profession:** Emperor
**Infamous for:** Throwing poisonous snakes into crowds of people

III

The reports of the cruelty of this notoriouous emperor are impossible to ascertain, but Elegabalus was certainly one of the most controversial and malicious Romans of all time.

Becoming emperor at just 14 years old, Elagabalus flouted Roman traditions and quickly created a multitude of enemies. Early in his reign, he replaced the head of the Roman god Jupiter with the head of the deity of his religion and forced the government to participate in his religious festivals. A picture of Elagabalus was placed over a statue of the goddess Victoria, forcing people to make offers to him rather than her. He also ignored tradition when he married a Vestal virgin who was forbidden from engaging in sexual intercourse, else be buried alive. He instated his divinity further when he had himself circumcised in order to be the high priest of his new religion.

One of the most shocking stories of Elagabalus is that he frequently sacrificed children and used their guts to read the future. The young emperor also seemed to delight in twisted practical jokes; in one instance he threw venomous snakes into a crowd in Rome, and even created a lottery with prizes ranging from wasps and dead dogs to an execution note. Credited with creating the whoopee cushion, he also enjoyed tormenting guests by serving them rocks and wax at dinner parties, and even snuck lions into their beds. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Elagabalus was assassinated when he was just 18 years old.

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## CALIGULA 12-41 CE

### The insane emperor who proclaimed himself a god

**Profession:** Emperor

**Infamous for:** Throwing innocent crowds to the lions in the Coliseum

II Caligula's reign was not bloody or vicious at first. When he entered Rome as emperor, he was hailed by adoring crowds as "our baby" and "our star", and the first few months were relatively peaceful. But in October 37 CE he suffered an illness that seemed to completely alter his mental state. He began joining in the brutal imperial tradition of killing off anyone he saw as a rival, and that included his own cousin, adopted son and possibly his grandmother. He kept his uncle Claudius alive but tormented him relentlessly with cruel practical jokes and public humiliations. The public weren't spared from his cruelty either, as people were executed without trial or forced to commit suicide.

Desperate for money, Caligula would also target people for execution purely to seize their property, and even auctioned the lives of gladiators at shows. Despite the financial worries, he splashed cash by constructing two of the biggest ships of the ancient world, with the largest the equivalent of a floating palace, replete with marble floors. His obsession with his public image took a controversial turn when he appeared in public dressed as various Roman gods, and even referred to himself as a god, both in official documents and in person. Two temples were erected in his honour and Caligula removed the heads of statues of ancient gods, replacing them with his own.

Caligula's reputation for outrageous and despicable actions was encouraged when he found himself bored while watching the games at the amphitheatre, so ordered his guards to throw in some of the crowd to be eaten by animals. It was also reported that he enjoyed chewing up the testicles of his victims while they were still attached to them. Caligula was so universally loathed that he became the first Roman emperor to be assassinated, by being stabbed over and over again. The assassins even killed his one-year-old daughter by bashing her head against a wall, to ensure his bloodline would be destroyed for good.

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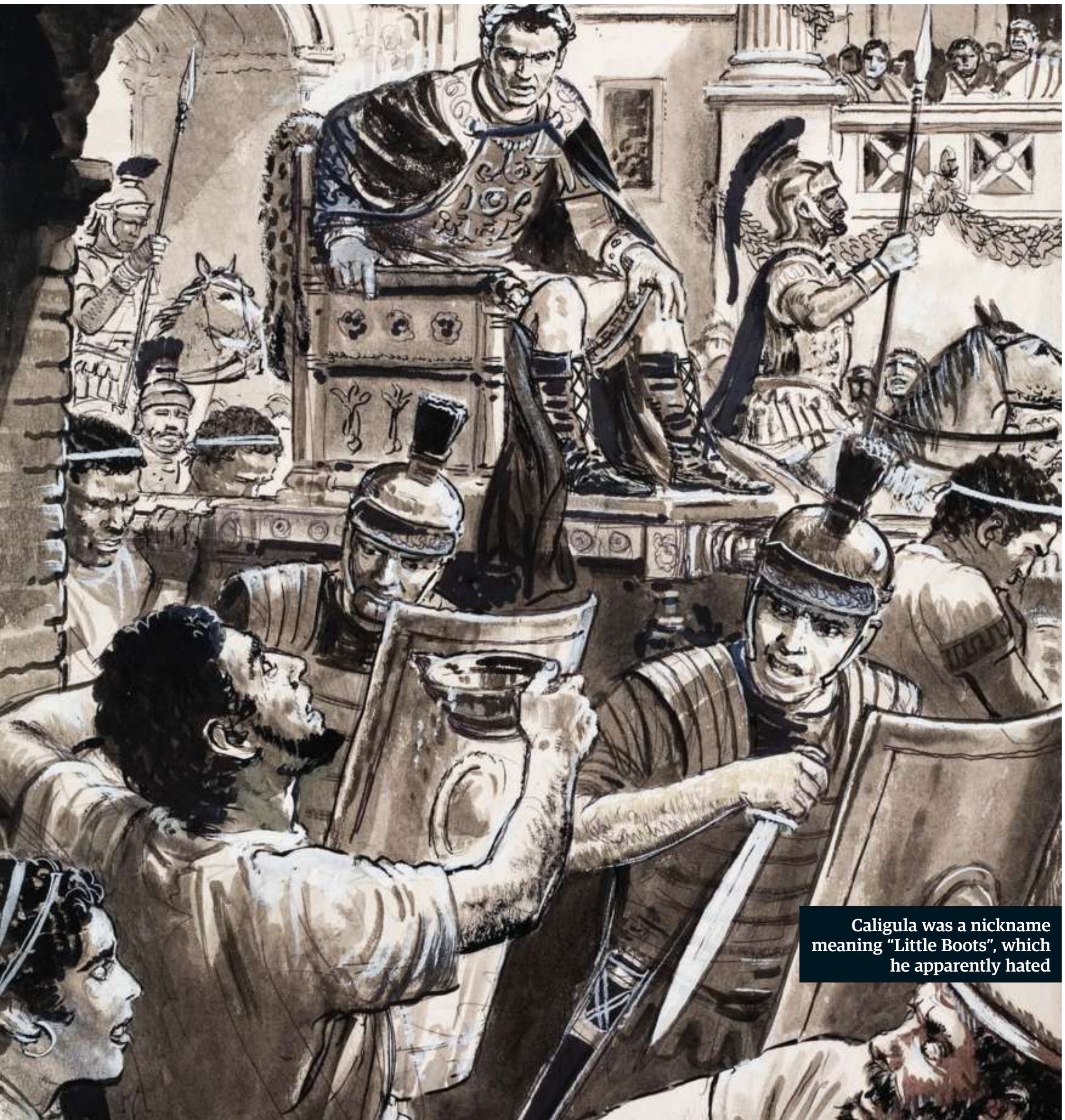

Caligula was a nickname meaning "Little Boots", which he apparently hated

Irene was eventually kicked off the throne, exiled and had to survive by spinning wool

## IRENE OF ATHENS 752-803

### The empress that placed ultimate power above all else

**Profession:** Empress

**Infamous for:** Blinding her son

I Although considered a saint in the Eastern Orthodox Church for her support of idols, Irene of Athens also had a much darker and bloodier streak. Although she came from a noble family, she was an unlikely bride of Leo IV, emperor of the Byzantine Empire. When her husband died, Irene became regent for her son, Constantine – just ten years old at the time. A group of powerful figures took the emperor's death as a chance to rebel, but Irene demonstrated her quick and brutal justice by arresting them and forcing them to become monks, making it impossible for them to rule.

Although she was regent, Irene clearly established her dominance by having herself, not her son, on the first coins printed during his reign, printing his name on the less prominent side of the coin. When Constantine came of age, Irene showed no signs of giving up power, but her son had inherited her ambition, so a political battle ensued between the two. The empress arrested her son's men and had them flogged and exiled, as well as any supporters. She also persuaded the army to swear to not accept him as emperor until she died. When Constantine was distracted by the birth of his son, she began to plot a way to become sole ruler. She had her supporters seize her son and imprison him, before he was blinded by having his eyes gouged out, eliminating any chance of him ascending the throne. He died either from his injuries or later in exile. With all her rivals stamped out and family dead, Irene finally had the ultimate control she so desired.

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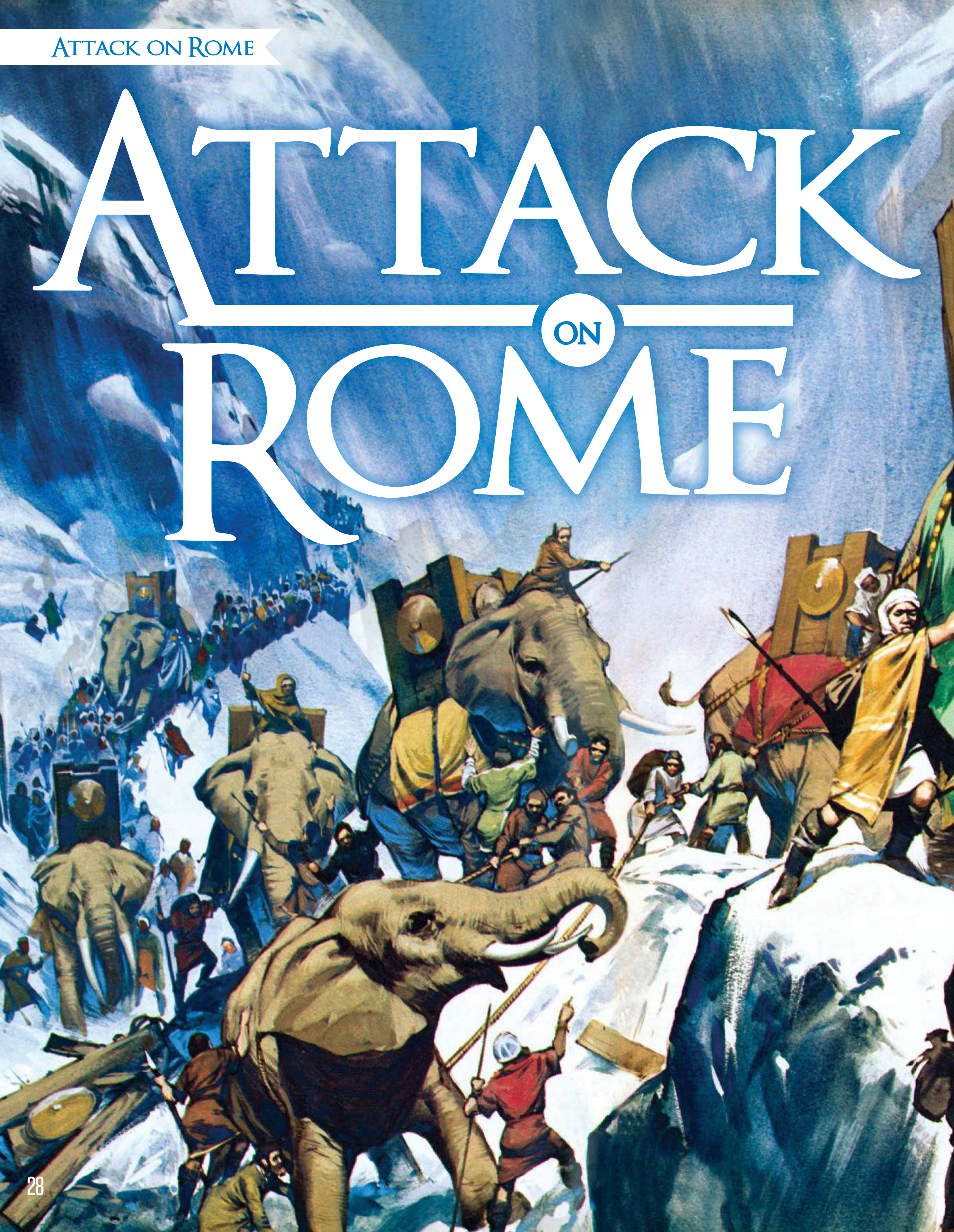
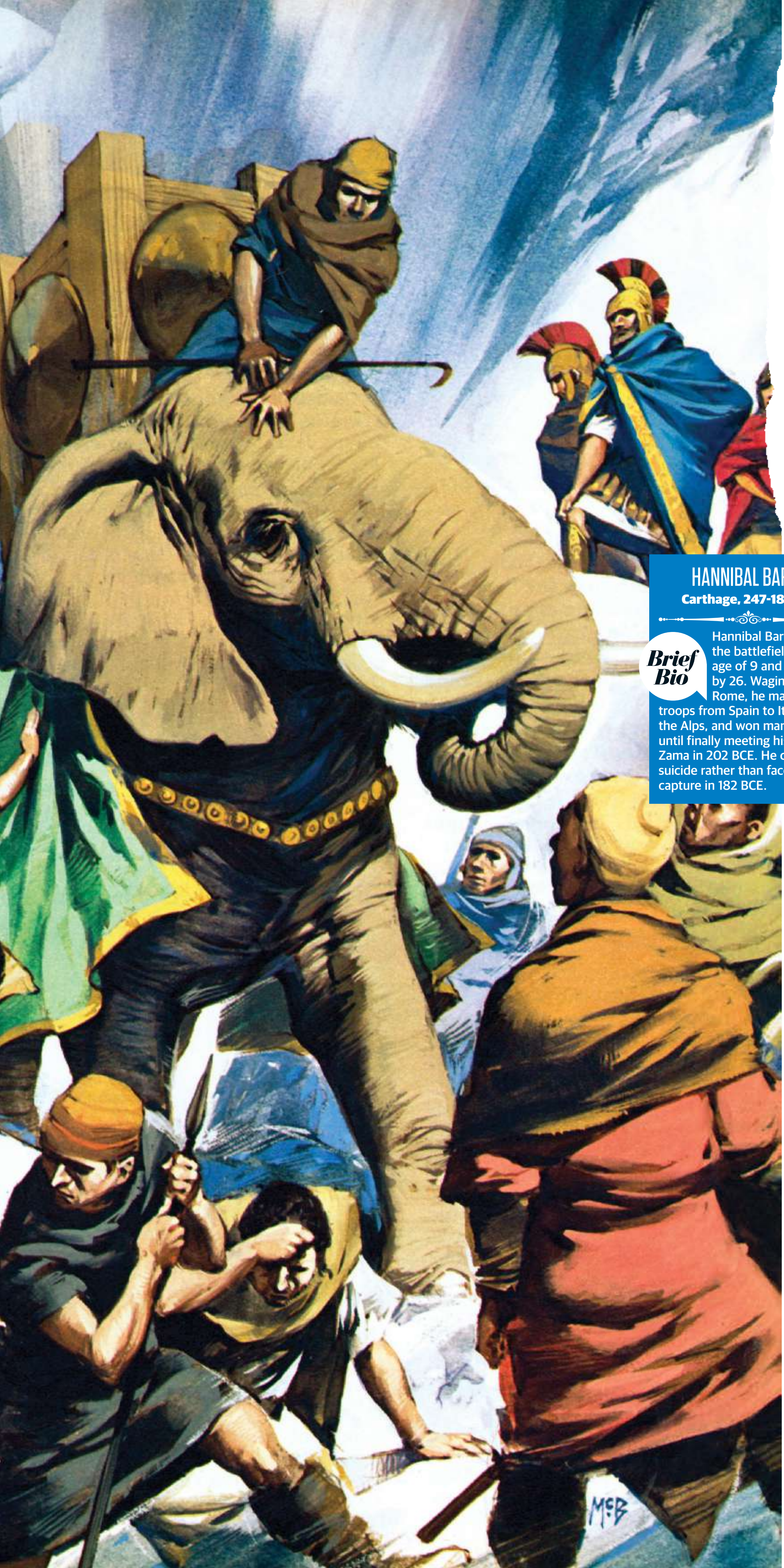
# ATTACK ON ROME





# In the 2nd century BCE, Rome was a powerful international force, but one man almost brought an empire to its knees. This is his story…

Written by Owen Williams

History is full of epic journeys, but few can match the one undertaken by Hannibal in 218 BCE. Starting in Spain, he would march over 80,000 troops and 30 war elephants through the Pyrenees and Gaul and across the Alps into Italy. At the outset of the venture it must have seemed a daunting task, but Hannibal was not a man lacking in confidence. The Carthaginian general, born into a famous military family, was taking resistance against the Roman Empire to a new level. While giving some thought to the defence of his own people Hannibal decided to go on the attack, and would achieve such staggering success that he - almost unbelievably - threatened to completely destroy the mighty power of the Romans. Cool and calculating, his feats would earn him fame as one of the greatest military strategists of all time. It would take an equally extraordinary military mind among the Romans to finally defeat him: Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus.

### HANNIBAL BARCA

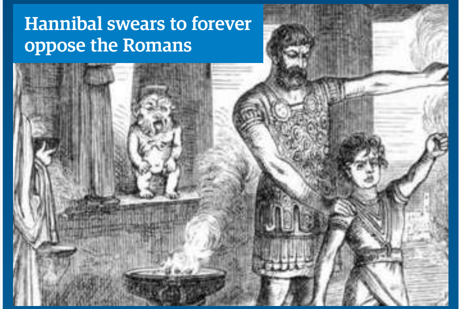
**Carthage, 247-182 BCE**

**Brief Bio**

Hannibal Barca was on the battlefield by the age of 9 and a general by 26. Waging war on Rome, he marched troops from Spain to Italy across the Alps, and won many battles until finally meeting his match at Zama in 202 BCE. He committed suicide rather than face Roman capture in 182 BCE.

At the time of Hannibal's birth in 247 BCE, Carthage was the greatest of the Mediterranean empires. The Carthaginians were a Phoenician people (from which the word 'Punic' is derived), and the Phoenicians had been settling North Africa and Southern Spain since the 10th and 11th centuries BCE. Carthage was established in the 9th century BCE, but by 241 BCE, after 23 years of the First Punic War, it had suffered losses to the might of Rome, and been driven out of Western Sicily, an area previously under Carthaginian control.

Leading the Carthaginians against Rome was Hannibal's father Hamilcar, given the surname 'Barca', which means 'lightning flash.' Hannibal would live up to the name, compared by the Roman Florus as "a thunderbolt which burst its way through the midst of the Alps and swooped down upon Italy from those snows of fabulous heights like a missile hurled from the skies!" Furious his senate hadn't allowed him to continue fighting, Hamilcar spent the next few years re-establishing Carthage's military and economic footing, but our

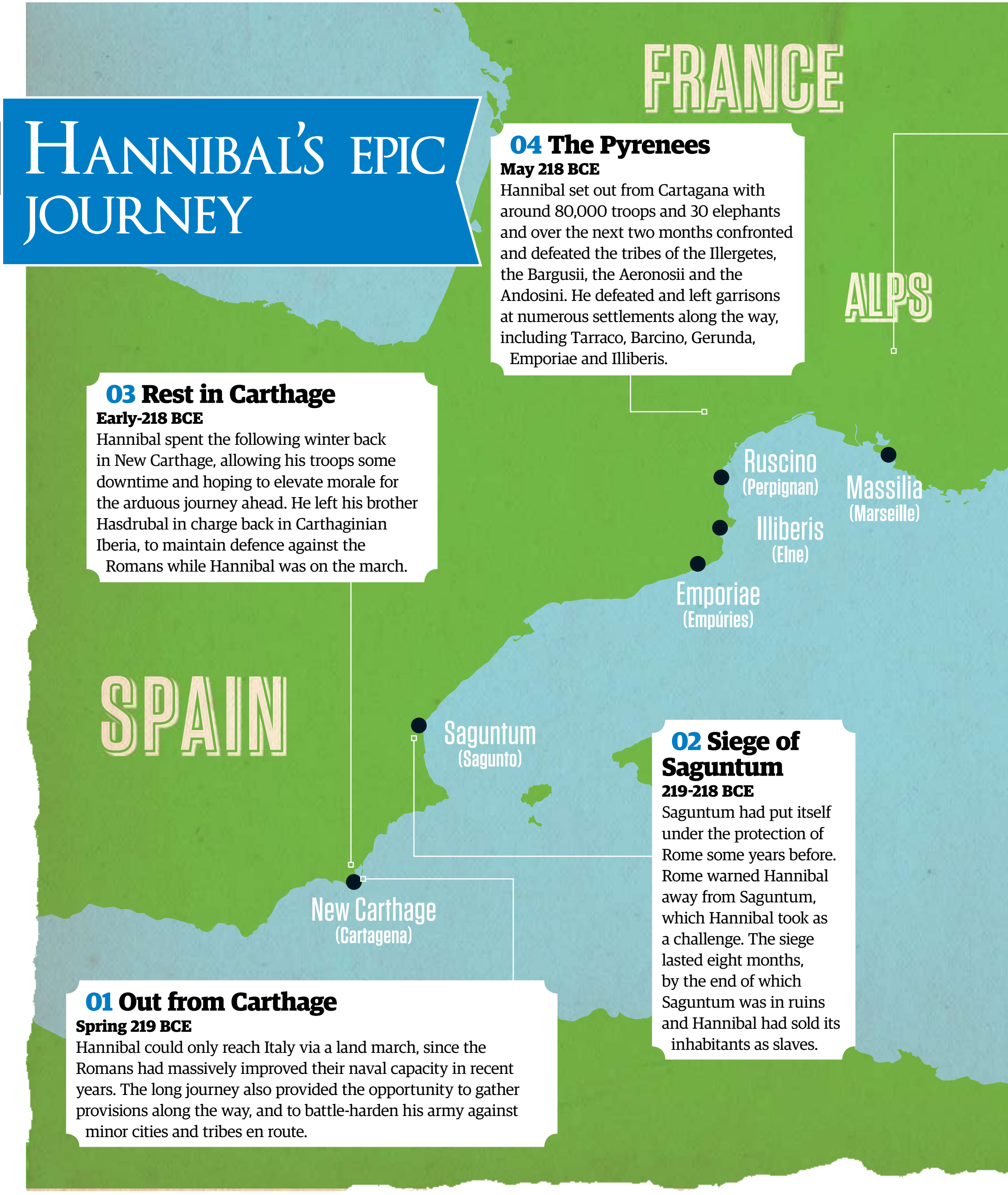


Hannibal swears to forever oppose the Romans

## WHY WAS HANNIBAL FIGHTING?

Hannibal's wars were about resistance and rebellion against the might of the Romans. He came from Carthage in northern Tunisia, which was itself a powerful force, established in the 9th century BCE and one of the greatest Mediterranean empires at the time Hannibal was born in 247 BCE. Carthage had suffered in the First Punic War, however, driven out of Western Sicily, which they had previously held but had now lost to the Romans. Carthage did not exactly lose the First Punic War, but didn't win it either, and Hannibal's father Hamilcar Barca was furious that the Carthaginian senate had not allowed him to continue fighting. The Second Punic War, under Hannibal's own command, was very much unfinished Barca business. He was happy to conquer, but he would not be conquered.

## HANNIBAL'S EPIC JOURNEY



### 01 Out from Carthage

**Spring 219 BCE**

Hannibal could only reach Italy via a land march, since the Romans had massively improved their naval capacity in recent years. The long journey also provided the opportunity to gather provisions along the way, and to battle-harden his army against minor cities and tribes en route.

### 02 Siege of Saguntum

**219-218 BCE**

Saguntum had put itself under the protection of Rome some years before. Rome warned Hannibal away from Saguntum, which Hannibal took as a challenge. The siege lasted eight months, by the end of which Saguntum was in ruins and Hannibal had sold its inhabitants as slaves.

### 03 Rest in Carthage

**Early-218 BCE**

Hannibal spent the following winter back in New Carthage, allowing his troops some downtime and hoping to elevate morale for the arduous journey ahead. He left his brother Hasdrubal in charge back in Carthaginian Iberia, to maintain defence against the Romans while Hannibal was on the march.

### 04 The Pyrenees

**May 218 BCE**

Hannibal set out from Cartagana with around 80,000 troops and 30 elephants and over the next two months confronted and defeated the tribes of the Illergetes, the Bargusii, the Aeronosii and the Andosini. He defeated and left garrisons at numerous settlements along the way, including Tarraco, Barcino, Gerunda, Emporiae and Illiberis.

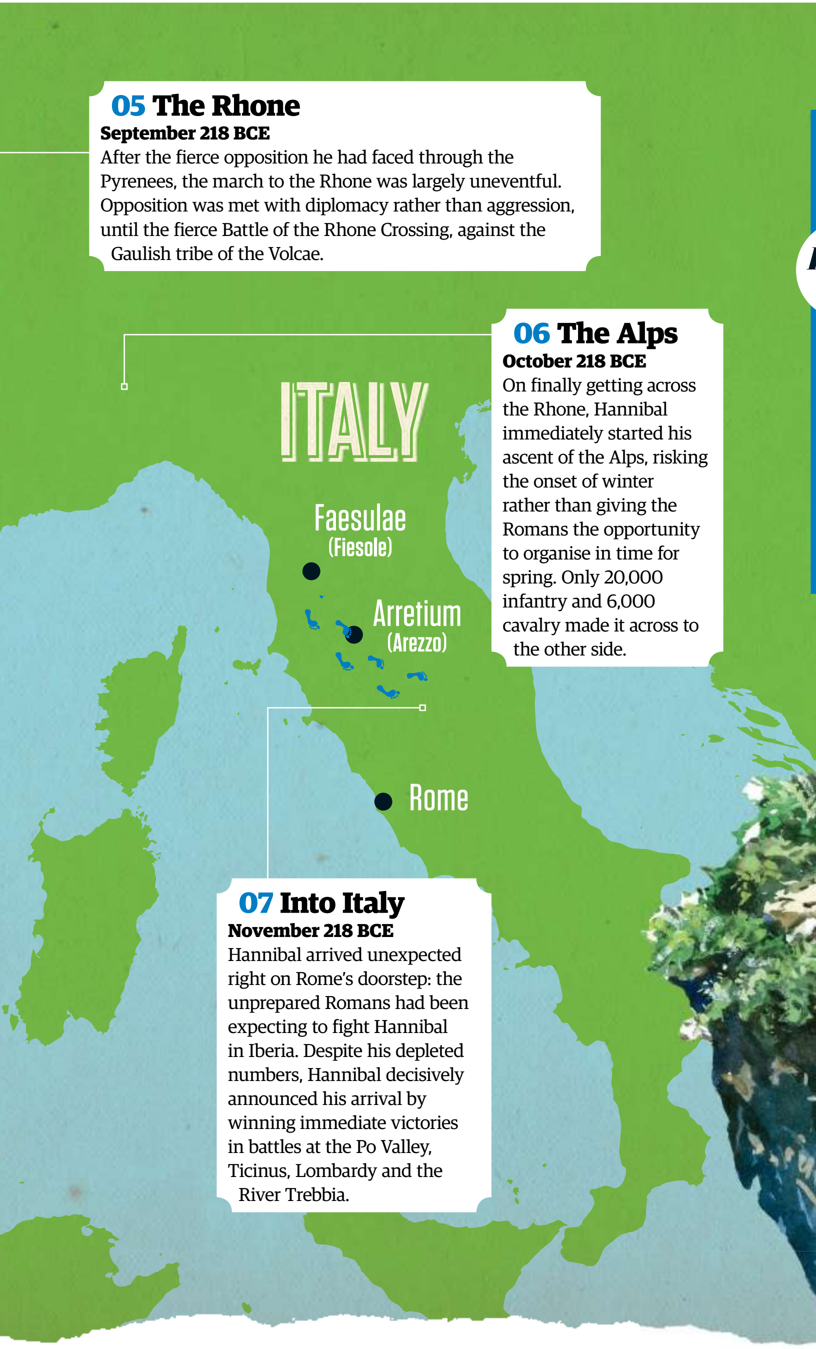
first glimpse of Hannibal is during a Barca venture to plunder Spanish silver mines in 238 BCE.

Hannibal pleaded with his father to be allowed to go along. Hamilcar agreed, after making his son swear an oath that he would never be a friend to the Romans; and so Hannibal was on the battlefield by the time he was nine years old. He scarcely ever left it. He ate, spoke and drank with military men and watched his father manage his troops, gaining invaluable military experience from an early age. He rose quickly through the ranks and by 224 BCE, aged just 23, was in charge of the cavalry. Three years later, following Hamilcar's death in battle, he was the general of the entire army, supported by troops who knew, trusted and respected him.

The Second Punic War, beginning in 218 BCE, saw Hannibal continuing his father's unfinished business, expanding Punic power throughout Spain. The major outbreak of hostilities with Rome focused around the Spanish city of Saguntum, which was under the protection of Rome. The city of Saguntum was worried about hostile local tribes, as well as internal factions. Their link with the great Empire seemed of little consequence though as Rome paid them little attention. This changed when Hannibal began moving his Carthaginian bases in Spain outward, expanding to the west and northeast. The enraged Romans visited Hannibal to warn him away from Saguntum. Hannibal took this as a challenge and laid the city to a lengthy siege, to which the Romans reacted remarkably slowly. By the time they had protested to the Carthaginian senate and sent aid to Saguntum, Hannibal had taken it. The city was his.

> "FLORUS COMPARED HANNIBAL TO 'A THUNDERBOLT WHICH BURST ITS WAY THROUGH THE MIDST OF THE ALPS'"

From Saguntum, the bold Carthaginian leader saw his objective clearly. The power of Rome, particularly through its strength in numbers, was derived from the people of Italy. In order to strangle that source, Hannibal had to promise Italy freedom from Rome's oppression. To do this, he would actually need to invade Italy, since rumours of distant Punic victories in Spain and North Africa would not be enough to sway Italian opinion to his cause. The problem was that Hannibal and his forces could not reach Italy by sea, due to Rome's naval dominance. A land march was his only feasible option, collecting provisions along the way, plundering where possible and bloodying his soldiers against minor cities and tribes to make sure they were battle hardened and at full fighting efficiency. It would be a punishing journey before they even reached the Alps, which they would cross at the worst time of year. But it would confound the Romans, who were sailing to attack Hannibal in Spain, oblivious that he was, at the same moment, marching in the opposite direction, looking to strike the great empire at its very heart.



### 05 The Rhone

**September 218 BCE**

After the fierce opposition he had faced through the Pyrenees, the march to the Rhone was largely uneventful. Opposition was met with diplomacy rather than aggression, until the fierce Battle of the Rhone Crossing, against the Gaulish tribe of the Volcae.

### 06 The Alps

**October 218 BCE**

On finally getting across the Rhone, Hannibal immediately started his ascent of the Alps, risking the onset of winter rather than giving the Romans the opportunity to organise in time for spring. Only 20,000 infantry and 6,000 cavalry made it across to the other side.

### 07 Into Italy

**November 218 BCE**

Hannibal arrived unexpected right on Rome's doorstep: the unprepared Romans had been expecting to fight Hannibal in Iberia. Despite his depleted numbers, Hannibal decisively announced his arrival by winning immediate victories in battles at the Po Valley, Ticinus, Lombardy and the River Trebbia.

### SCIPIO

**Rome, 236-183 BCE**

***Brief Bio***

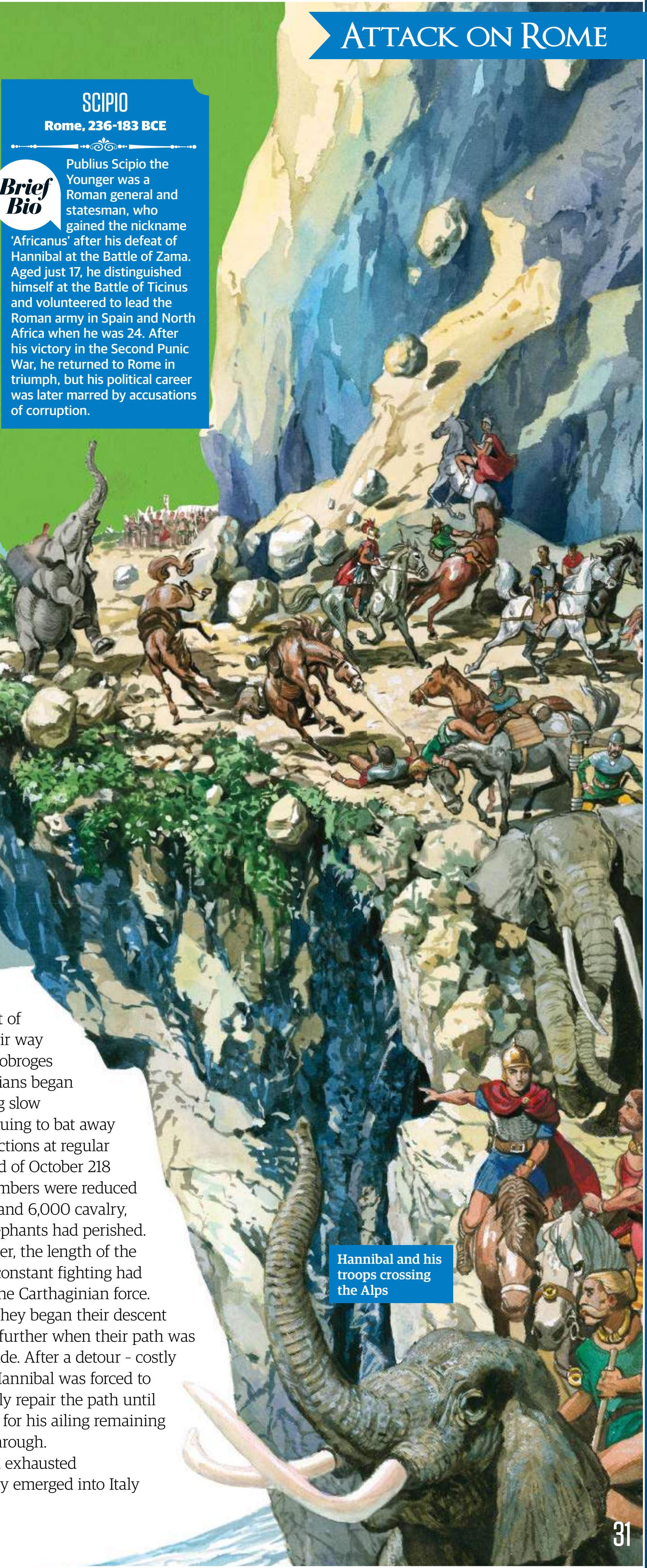
Publius Scipio the Younger was a Roman general and statesman, who gained the nickname 'Africanus' after his defeat of Hannibal at the Battle of Zama. Aged just 17, he distinguished himself at the Battle of Ticinus and volunteered to lead the Roman army in Spain and North Africa when he was 24. After his victory in the Second Punic War, he returned to Rome in triumph, but his political career was later marred by accusations of corruption.

In the spring of 218 BCE, following a winter of rest after Saguntum, Hannibal set out with his 80,000 men, confronting several tribes and garrisoning more cities along the route. These brief skirmishes aside, the journey was largely uneventful until the Carthaginians reached the banks of the Rhone and faced fierce opposition from the pro-Roman Volcae, a Gaulish tribe.

Hannibal's first major battle outside his homelands was early evidence of his genius for planning. Expecting exactly the resistance he faced, Hannibal had sent a detachment upriver to cross at a different point and circle around behind the Volcae. As Hannibal led his principal force across the river, the Volcae attacked as predicted to prevent his crossing, but were caught unawares when Hannibal's secret detachment attacked from their rear. The preparation had been intricate and the victory was so decisive that the battle only lasted mere minutes.

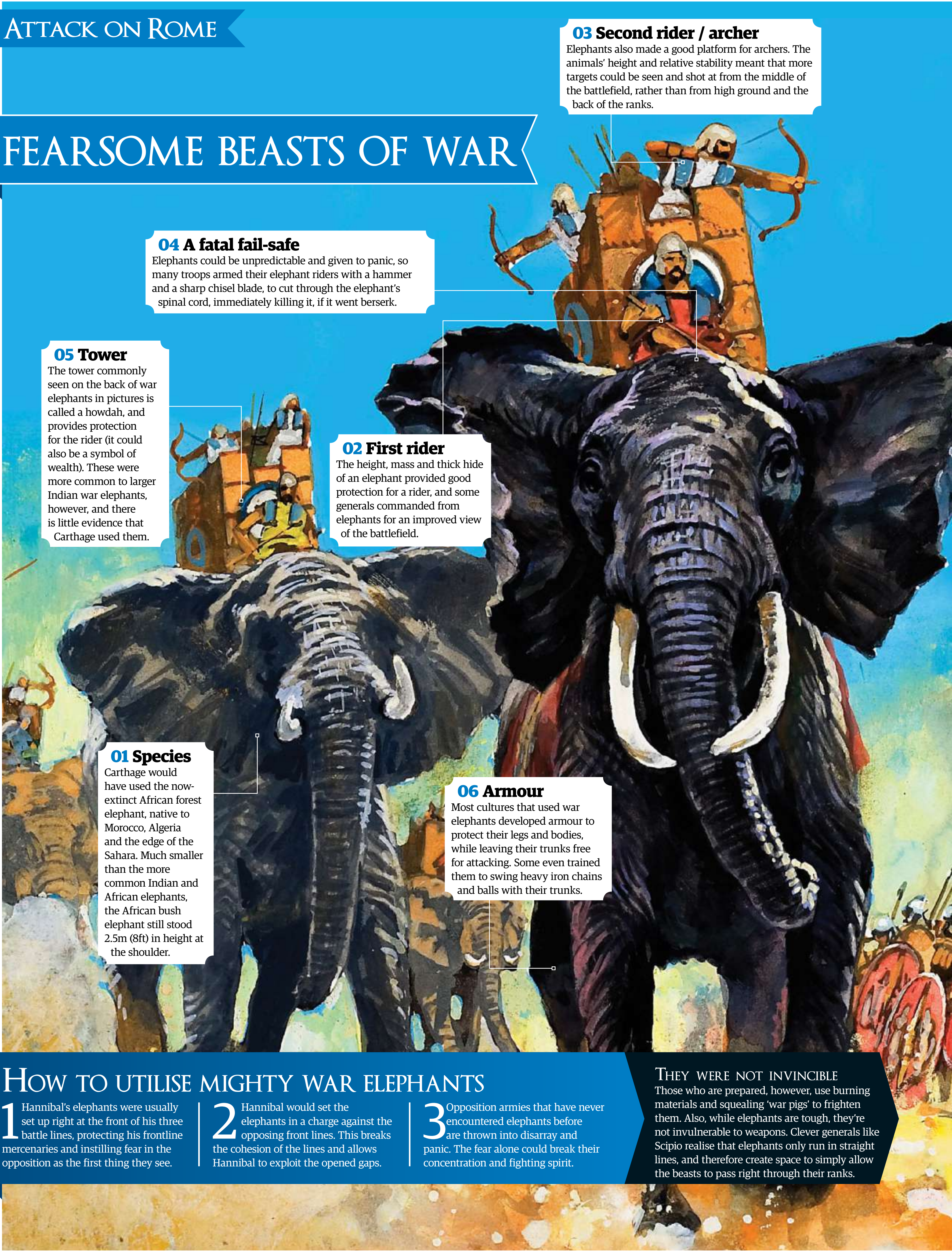
A single day after the Battle of the Rhone, Hannibal began heading for the Alps, realising that his army needed to cross them quickly before the disastrous onset of winter. Fighting their way past the Gaulish Allobroges tribe, the Carthaginians began their ascent, making slow progress and continuing to bat away barbarian counter-actions at regular intervals. By the end of October 218 BCE, Hannibal's numbers were reduced to 20,000 infantry and 6,000 cavalry, and many of his elephants had perished. Deteriorating weather, the length of the campaign and the constant fighting had taken their toll on the Carthaginian force. Morale was low as they began their descent into Italy and sunk further when their path was blocked by a landslide. After a detour - costly in terms of time - Hannibal was forced to backtrack and simply repair the path until it was wide enough for his ailing remaining elephants to pass through.

The depleted and exhausted Carthaginians finally emerged into Italy



**Hannibal and his troops crossing the Alps**

# FEARSOME BEASTS OF WAR



**01 Species**
Carthage would have used the now-extinct African forest elephant, native to Morocco, Algeria and the edge of the Sahara. Much smaller than the more common Indian and African elephants, the African bush elephant still stood 2.5m (8ft) in height at the shoulder.

**02 First rider**
The height, mass and thick hide of an elephant provided good protection for a rider, and some generals commanded from elephants for an improved view of the battlefield.

**03 Second rider / archer**
Elephants also made a good platform for archers. The animals' height and relative stability meant that more targets could be seen and shot at from the middle of the battlefield, rather than from high ground and the back of the ranks.

**04 A fatal fail-safe**
Elephants could be unpredictable and given to panic, so many troops armed their elephant riders with a hammer and a sharp chisel blade, to cut through the elephant's spinal cord, immediately killing it, if it went berserk.

**05 Tower**
The tower commonly seen on the back of war elephants in pictures is called a howdah, and provides protection for the rider (it could also be a symbol of wealth). These were more common to larger Indian war elephants, however, and there is little evidence that Carthage used them.

**06 Armour**
Most cultures that used war elephants developed armour to protect their legs and bodies, while leaving their trunks free for attacking. Some even trained them to swing heavy iron chains and balls with their trunks.

## HOW TO UTILISE MIGHTY WAR ELEPHANTS

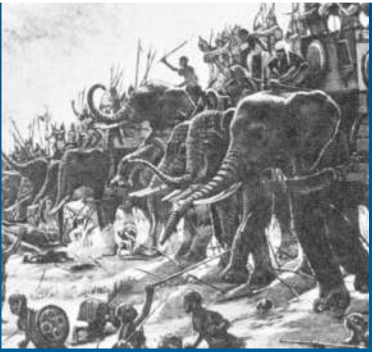
1 Hannibal's elephants were usually set up right at the front of his three battle lines, protecting his frontline mercenaries and instilling fear in the opposition as the first thing they see.

2 Hannibal would set the elephants in a charge against the opposing front lines. This breaks the cohesion of the lines and allows Hannibal to exploit the opened gaps.

3 Opposition armies that have never encountered elephants before are thrown into disarray and panic. The fear alone could break their concentration and fighting spirit.

### THEY WERE NOT INVINCIBLE

Those who are prepared, however, use burning materials and squealing 'war pigs' to frighten them. Also, while elephants are tough, they're not invulnerable to weapons. Clever generals like Scipio realise that elephants only run in straight lines, and therefore create space to simply allow the beasts to pass right through their ranks.



## STRENGTHS IN BATTLE

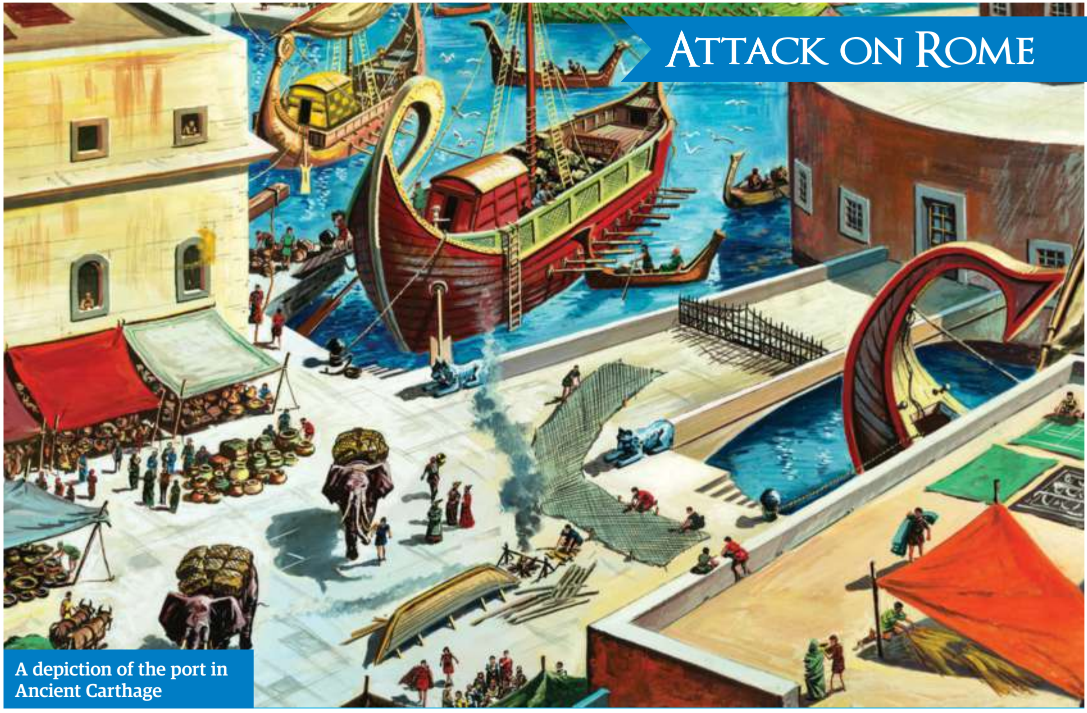
Elephants were essentially a terror weapon, used to strike fear and chaos into opposing armies that had never seen them before. They were particularly effective against horses, but also provided sturdy defence in a line of battle. An elephant charge could reach up to 32km/h (20mph) and, unlike a horse charge, could not be arrested by enemy spears.

## WEAKNESSES IN BATTLE

Opposing armies only needed to encounter a pack of war elephants once before the element of surprise was gone and tactics could be devised against them. The Romans found that light troops simply waving burning straw were effective, as were squealing pigs ('war pigs'), which elephants fear. And while tough, elephants could still be wounded. Panicking elephants could cause as much chaos and disruption among their own ranks as the enemy's.

## LOGISTICS

Elephants needed significant space for stabling and an enormous amount of feeding: a problem when on the move. Only male elephants could be used in battle, because female elephants would always run if they encountered a male. Plus, males have tusks! Elephants are very difficult to breed in captivity, so there was an industry built on the constant need to capture them from the wild and continuously train them.



A depiction of the port in Ancient Carthage

in December, and how Hannibal deployed his depleted force once again served to demonstrate his extraordinary military skill. At the Battle of Trebbia, as the Romans rushed to confront him, he was vastly outnumbered but took advantage of the terrain. Finding a flat area of land with a hidden water course running through it, Hannibal charged toward the Roman camp and enraged the Romans so much that they were provoked into fighting unprepared, surprised at having to ford an ice-cold river into unfamiliar land. As they moved forward with their superior infantry they initially seemed to prevail against their smaller enemy, but Hannibal had hidden some of his soldiers in the water who then, as at the Rhone, rose up behind the enemy. Attacked from every angle – Hannibal also deftly flung his cavalry at one side of the Romans and his skirmishers at the other, as well as facing them head-on – the Romans lacked the manoeuvrability to turn around and were promptly crushed, suffering up to 32,000 casualties to Hannibal's 5,000. His march continued.

> "HANNIBAL AND HIS FORCES COULD NOT REACH ITALY BY SEA, DUE TO THE INCREASING MIGHT OF ROME'S NAVAL FORCES. A LAND MARCH WAS HIS ONLY OPTION"

The Carthaginian general used similar tactics at the Battle of Lake Trasimene the following year, where the Romans pursued what they believed to be Hannibal's fleeing army into a valley close to the shore of the lake, only to find them silently waiting in the slopes above. The Romans were trapped by the terrain, and some were driven into the lake and drowned, while others had to simply stand and fight where they were until they were cut down. The Battle of Cannae in the spring of 216 BCE would be another decisive victory for Hannibal but it would also prove to be a fateful one. The Roman Scipio was among the opposition force and he vowed that he would never allow Hannibal to defeat him in battle.

Cannae is justly famous as one of the most perfect battles of all time: a blueprint for future generals to emulate. The Romans brought twice as many troops into the field as previously, numbering about 70,000. Hannibal's troops, despite now being augmented by Gauls from the North of Italy, were nevertheless still 'only' 50,000 strong, but his great trick this time was to ambush the Romans without any use of terrain at all. Instead, he pulled off a double-envelopment: his weaker force once again able to surround his enemy by capturing the wings and then driving in from the sides.

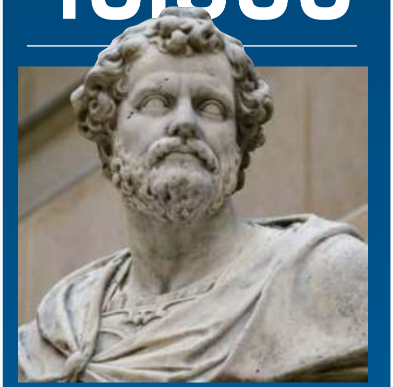
Stretching his battle lines into a crescent shape in front of the Romans, Hannibal lured the enemy in. Advancing into this formation, the Romans essentially allowed themselves to be encircled by the flanks and, finally, attacked from the rear by the Carthaginian cavalry. Even though the Romans significantly outnumbered the Carthaginians, they simply couldn't escape. About 100 people were killed every minute in the battle, with 50,000 Roman casualties and 12,000 Carthaginian.

Scipio, of course, was among the Roman survivors, as he had been at the earlier battles of Trebbia and Ticinus. Hannibal had been so successful that Rome had lost a full fifth of its military and was on the verge of surrender, but it was Scipio who, incensed by this news, stormed into a Roman senate meeting and at swordpoint forced those present to swear that Rome would continue fighting. Once he was given his own command at the age of just 25, he would never again see a Roman force defeated.

Following Cannae, Hannibal assumed Rome would capitulate and come to terms, but was confounded when they refused. The expectation was that Hannibal would then march on Rome

# CARTHAGE

## NUMBER OF TROOPS: 40,000



### LEADER

**HANNIBAL**

Son of Hamilcar Barca, familiar with the battlefield since he was nine years old and a Carthaginian general at the age of 25.

**Strength** Superior numbers; undefeated in many prior battles; tactical genius; 80 war elephants.

**Weakness** Tactics becoming known through overuse; varying loyalties among mercenary troops; elephants untrained and liable to cause chaos.

### KEY UNIT

**VETERANS**

Hannibal's third line comprised the veterans of his previous campaigns. They included the survivors of his Italian victories, as well as Libyans, Iberians and Gauls. They were the most hardened of all his troops.

**Strength** Experience and steadfastness. They refused to retreat, electing to fight to their death.

**Weakness** Age; arrogance born of being undefeated; outmatched when hemmed in by Roman cavalry.

### KEY WEAPON

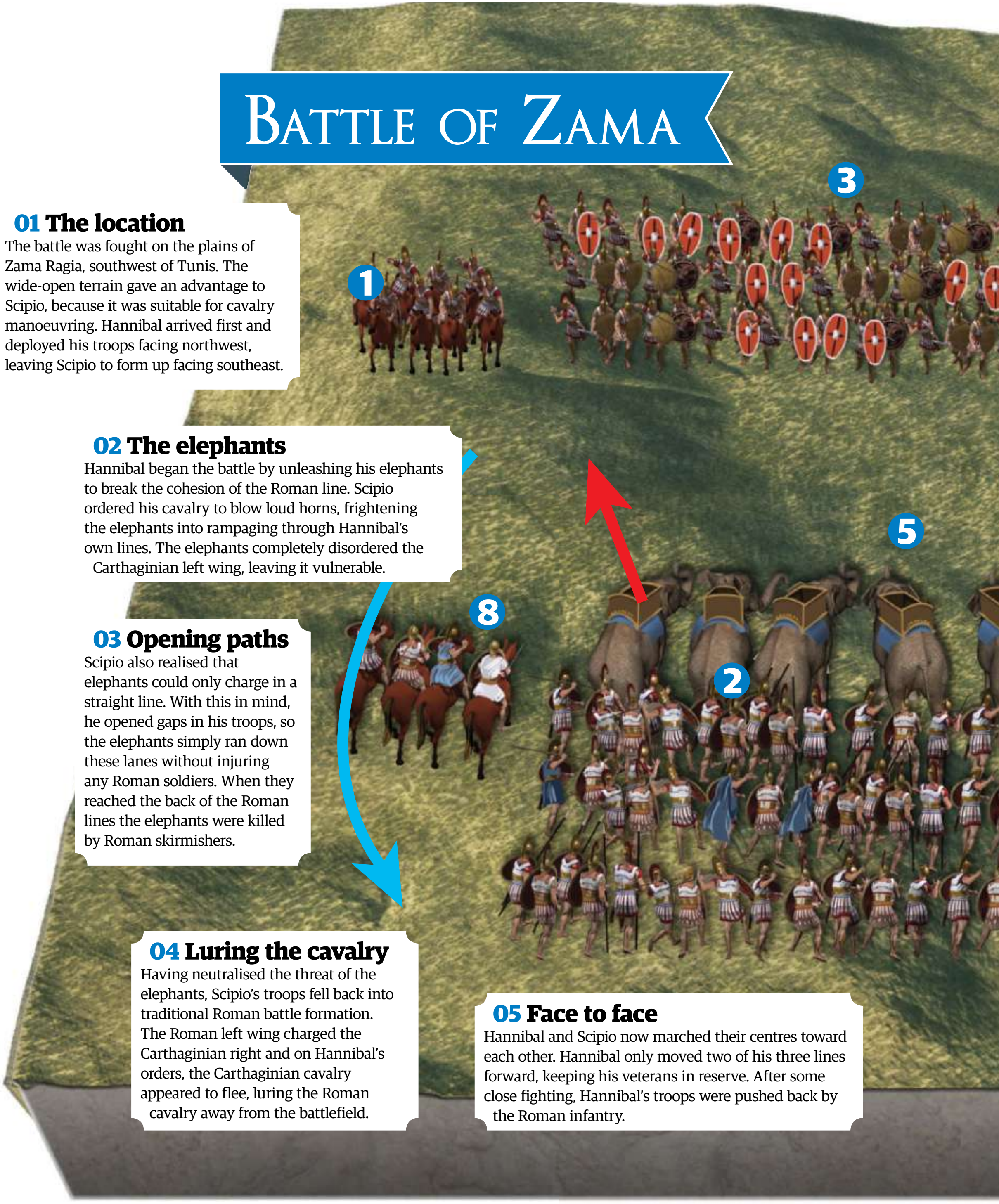
**CELTIC SWORD**

Much of Hannibal's army was made up of Celts (known to the Romans as Gauls) from Western Europe. They frequently fought naked and their weapon of choice was an 80cm (31in)-long double-edged sword.

**Strength** Could be used for slashing, swinging, and hacking like an axe.

**Weakness** Its length and method of use required space, so close-quarters could be tricky.

# BATTLE OF ZAMA



**01 The location**
The battle was fought on the plains of Zama Ragia, southwest of Tunis. The wide-open terrain gave an advantage to Scipio, because it was suitable for cavalry manoeuvring. Hannibal arrived first and deployed his troops facing northwest, leaving Scipio to form up facing southeast.

**02 The elephants**
Hannibal began the battle by unleashing his elephants to break the cohesion of the Roman line. Scipio ordered his cavalry to blow loud horns, frightening the elephants into rampaging through Hannibal's own lines. The elephants completely disordered the Carthaginian left wing, leaving it vulnerable.

**03 Opening paths**
Scipio also realised that elephants could only charge in a straight line. With this in mind, he opened gaps in his troops, so the elephants simply ran down these lanes without injuring any Roman soldiers. When they reached the back of the Roman lines the elephants were killed by Roman skirmishers.

**04 Luring the cavalry**
Having neutralised the threat of the elephants, Scipio's troops fell back into traditional Roman battle formation. The Roman left wing charged the Carthaginian right and on Hannibal's orders, the Carthaginian cavalry appeared to flee, luring the Roman cavalry away from the battlefield.

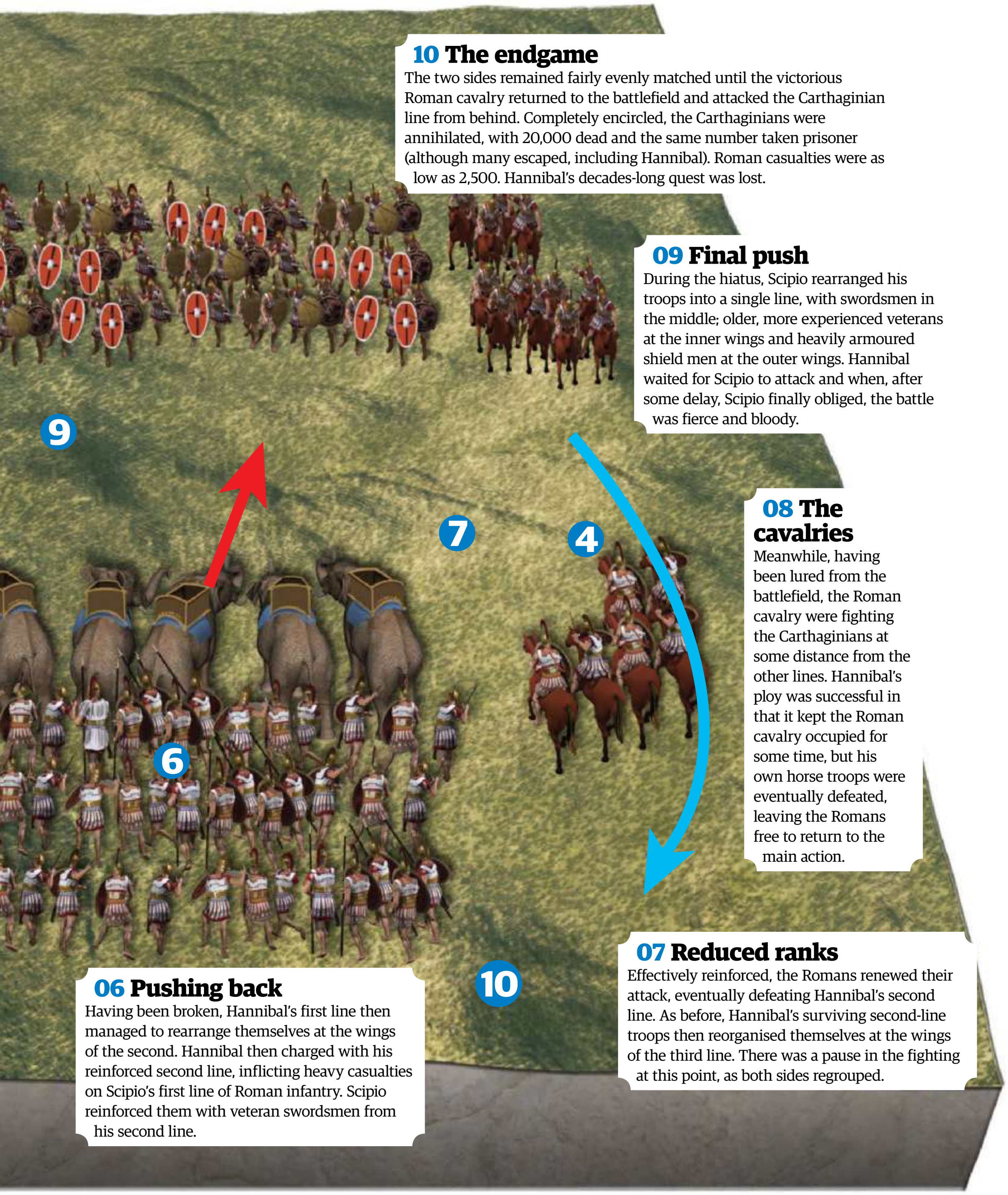
**05 Face to face**
Hannibal and Scipio now marched their centres toward each other. Hannibal only moved two of his three lines forward, keeping his veterans in reserve. After some close fighting, Hannibal's troops were pushed back by the Roman infantry.

> "HANNIBAL [...] WOULD ACHIEVE SUCH STAGGERING SUCCESS THAT HE THREATENED TO DESTROY THE POWER OF THE ROMANS COMPLETELY"

and bring it to its knees, but after his losses in the Alps and subsequent battles, he didn't have enough troops to have tactical flexibility, or to mount a siege, which would have meant keeping his army provisioned in one place for a long time. Having proved time and time again that he could destroy the Roman army in battle, Hannibal was stumped by the Romans simply being intractable. Incredibly, this stand-off kept Hannibal treading water in Italy for 14 years following Cannae. While during that time his armies fought 22 major battles in Italy and won most of them (losing none, at least), Rome remained steadfast in its opposition, so Hannibal's victories actually inconvenienced him, since his conquests made him responsible for many new allies he had to protect against the Romans.

By 210 BCE, Rome had realised the value of attacking Carthaginian targets back in Spain and North Africa, and Scipio, with his humanitarian conduct toward prisoners and hostages, made a good job of spinning Rome as a liberator rather than conqueror. Gradually deserted by its allies and harried by a revivified Roman force, Carthage rejected Scipio's moderate terms for surrender and recalled Hannibal home from Italy, bringing his war full circle.

Hannibal arrived back in Carthage for his final showdown with a force of 40,000 men and 80



### 10 The endgame

The two sides remained fairly evenly matched until the victorious Roman cavalry returned to the battlefield and attacked the Carthaginian line from behind. Completely encircled, the Carthaginians were annihilated, with 20,000 dead and the same number taken prisoner (although many escaped, including Hannibal). Roman casualties were as low as 2,500. Hannibal's decades-long quest was lost.

### 09 Final push

During the hiatus, Scipio rearranged his troops into a single line, with swordsmen in the middle; older, more experienced veterans at the inner wings and heavily armoured shield men at the outer wings. Hannibal waited for Scipio to attack and when, after some delay, Scipio finally obliged, the battle was fierce and bloody.

### 08 The cavalries

Meanwhile, having been lured from the battlefield, the Roman cavalry were fighting the Carthaginians at some distance from the other lines. Hannibal's ploy was successful in that it kept the Roman cavalry occupied for some time, but his own horse troops were eventually defeated, leaving the Romans free to return to the main action.

### 07 Reduced ranks

Effectively reinforced, the Romans renewed their attack, eventually defeating Hannibal's second line. As before, Hannibal's surviving second-line troops then reorganised themselves at the wings of the third line. There was a pause in the fighting at this point, as both sides regrouped.

### 06 Pushing back

Having been broken, Hannibal's first line then managed to rearrange themselves at the wings of the second. Hannibal then charged with his reinforced second line, inflicting heavy casualties on Scipio's first line of Roman infantry. Scipio reinforced them with veteran swordsmen from his second line.

elephants, for once outnumbering the Romans under Scipio, who numbered 35,000. And yet it was Scipio, having meticulously studied Hannibal's tactics in previous years and battles, that was able to win the day at the fateful Battle of Zama on 19 October 202 BCE.

It was a meeting of two of the greatest generals of the era, but an engagement Hannibal was destined to lose. Scipio negated the power of Hannibal's elephants by terrorising them with loud trumpets, sending them into chaos among Hannibal's own ranks. The rest he simply lured through gaps in his own lines and killed once they reached the back. The Roman and Carthaginian lines fought fiercely, while Hannibal's plan to lure the Roman cavalry from the battlefield seemed to be working. However, when the Roman cavalry defeated their Carthaginian opposite numbers and returned to the centre of the fray, Hannibal's forces were finally annihilated.

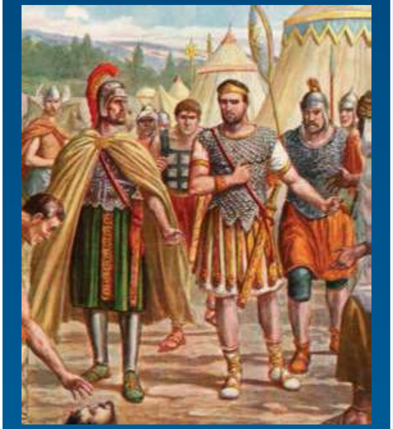
The last major battle of the Second Punic War resulted in a loss of respect for Hannibal among his own people. Scipio's very modest conditions of defeat – many Romans had expected him to raze Carthage to the ground – were that Carthage could no longer battle for Mediterranean supremacy and would pay lasting financial tributes to Rome. Hannibal was pushed into exile, acting like a kind of warfare consultant, seeking out kings attempting to resist Roman rule and offering his expertise and his services. Following some adventures in Syria and Armenia, he was faced with being handed over to Rome in 182 BCE, but took poison and his own life rather than be captured.

Scipio, coincidentally, died at around the same time, following a turbulent political life and a quieter retirement. His legacy is as the man who finally defeated Hannibal. Hannibal's, meanwhile, is as one of history's greatest military tacticians: the underdog who almost defeated an empire.

## ROME

### NUMBER OF TROOPS:

### 35,000



### LEADER

SCIPIO

Roman general and statesman, and a survivor of the disastrous battles at Ticinus, Trebbia and Cannae by the time he was just 20 years old.

**Strength** Large cavalry; preparation and intricate study of opposition tactics; favourable terrain.

**Weakness** Small infantry; cavalry lured from battlefield; no elephants.

### KEY UNIT

HASTATI

The youngest and most inexperienced of the Roman troops, so they were stuck in the front line to soak up the first volleys in the action.

**Strength** Supported by light troops and backed by the hardier and more experienced principes.

**Weakness** Often the poorest soldiers as well as the youngest, their equipment was cheap and modest.

### KEY WEAPON

PILA

The pilum was a 2m (6.6ft) javelin with a 60cm (23.6in) pyramidal head and a wooden shaft. Total weight was 2-5kg (4.4-11lb). Unlike most javelins, it could penetrate a shield.

**Strengths** The shape of the head meant they couldn't easily be removed from a shield – or a body.

**Weakness** Once thrown or embedded in something (or someone), the wielder had to abandon it for good and resort to a short sword.

In the single-minded pursuit of vengeance, the warrior queen of the Iceni massacred thousands of Romans and almost caused the empire to abandon Britannia entirely

# BOUDICA VS ROME

**Written by Erich B Anderson**

While Boudica of the Iceni was still mourning the death of her husband Prasutagus, a horde of Roman agents forced their way into her home. The armed men seized the Celtic queen, along with her two daughters, and dragged them all into public view. There, before the eyes of her people, Boudica was brutally flogged as if she were a slave and her two virgin daughters raped. When the violence was over, the Romans continued their acts of cruelty on the Iceni by confiscating the land of their chief nobles. Furious at their actions, the queen quickly gathered her people. She would stop at nothing until she had her revenge against the Roman Empire.

The Roman commanders gave the orders for these acts in 60 CE after they received the will of recently deceased King Prasutagus. To show his loyalty to Rome, the British ruler left half of his kingdom to the emperor, but bequeathed the other half to his daughters – an act of love that would backfire in ways he could never have imagined. According to Roman law, contracts with client kings terminated upon their death, and thus turn all of the possessions of the kingdom into Roman property. Usually, this transition from a native monarchy to Roman rule was carried out with far less brutality, in the hope of gaining the loyalty and allegiance of the newly conquered people.

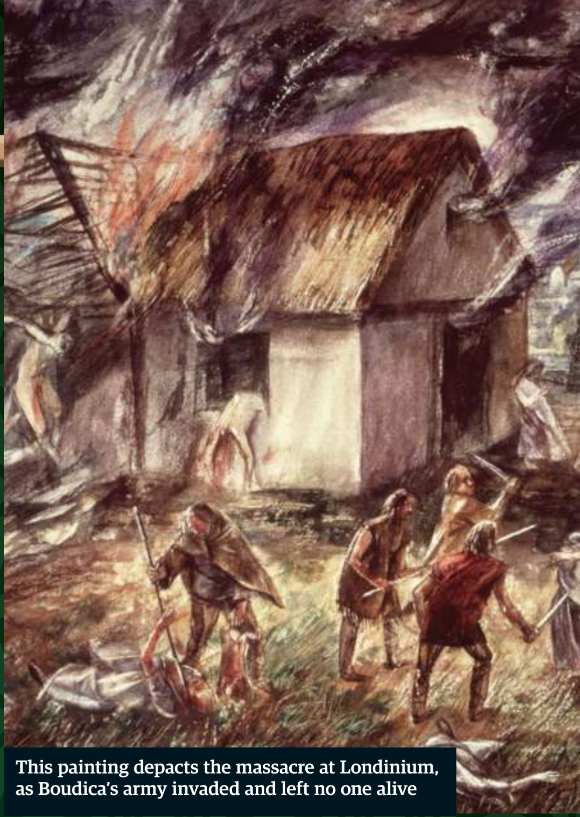
Yet the Romans were greatly insulted, not just because Prasutagus presumed to think he could leave such a large portion of his kingdom to his heirs - the shocking reaction to his will was mostly because these heirs were women. While powerful women were relatively common among the Britons, female rulers were an absurd concept in the patriarchal society of Rome. And the Romans would make their feelings about this very clear.

It did not take long for thousands of aggrieved Britons to hear of the uprising of the Iceni, as well as the atrocities committed on Boudica and her family. The Romans had only conquered Britannia less than 20 years before, during the reign of Emperor Claudius in 43 CE, and the oppressive treatment of their new subjects by imperial officials had created numerous rebels all over the island.

Iceni gold coins

For several years after the conquest, most insurgents became a part of the full-fledged guerrilla war led by Caratacus, king of the Catuvellauni. After the decisive victories of the Romans over his forces during the invasion, the king learned not to face the legions on the battlefield, instead using his superior knowledge of the local terrain to carry out successful guerrilla tactics on the foreign army.

Though the Iceni officially became allies of the Roman Empire after the conquest, a faction of the Iceni also participated in a minor revolt in 48 CE, when the governor Publius Ostorius Scapula enacted a draconian measure to discourage Britons from joining Caratacus. The governor had his men force their way into the homes of the Iceni and confiscated all weapons. However, when the Iceni insurgents revolted with warriors from the neighbouring Catuvellauni and Coritani, they had no chance against the Roman army. Scapula quickly crushed the rebel forces when he stormed the Iceni hill fort they fought from and slaughtered all of the rebels.


This painting depacts the massacre at Londinium, as Boudica's army invaded and left no one alive

The Iceni had more than enough cause to rally behind their queen, but the main reason Britons from other tribes flocked to swell her ranks was that they no longer had any major rebel army to join. In 51 CE, Scapula continued his campaign to quell the unrest throughout the island by targeting its source, Caratacus. And once the rebel king was forced to meet the Roman army in pitched battle, the governor defeated him. Caratacus then fled to the court of Cartimandua, queen of the Brigantes, to seek refuge. Yet instead of aiding a fellow British ruler, the queen betrayed her tribal rival to the Romans, gaining much trust from her overlords but losing the respect of many of her people. Among those who had fallen out of favour with her was Venutius, her husband.

After Cartimandua divorced him in 57 CE, he attempted to seize her kingdom from her but was thwarted by the Roman forces that came to the aid of their client queen. Although he would later become the next great rebel leader, Venutius would not make another move until more than a decade later and remained in hiding during the Boudican rebellion.

> “FEMALE RULERS WERE AN ABSURD CONCEPT IN ROME”

## THE ROMANS

### GAIUS SUETONIUS PAULINUS

**When Paulinus became the governor of Britannia in 58 CE, he had already proven himself to be a very skilled general. In 40 CE, he was the first Roman to lead an army over the Atlas Mountains in North Africa.**

### GNAEUS JULIUS AGRICOLA

**Agricola was only a military tribune under Paulinus during the Boudican revolt. However, his participation in the conflict was one of the major reasons that his son-in-law, Tacitus, recorded the event.**

### PETILIUS CERIALIS

**Cerialis was a young and impetuous commander when he first entered the historical record as the legate of the ninth legion. Yet even after his disastrous failure against Boudica, he managed to become governor of Britannia in 71 CE.**

## THE ROAD TO REBELLION

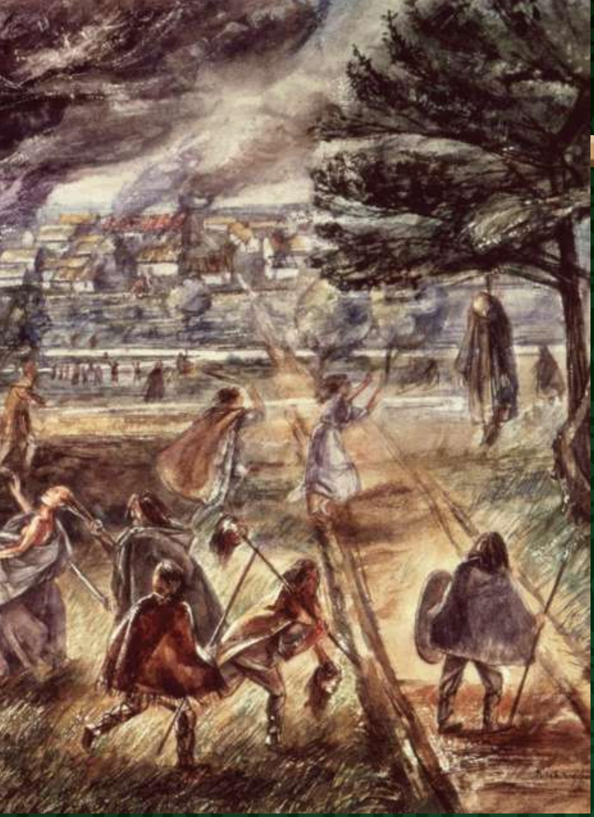
**55 and 54 BCE**
The invasions of Britannia by Gaius Julius Caesar were the first violent conflicts between the Romans and the Britons. Though successful, no permanent Roman presence was created.

**40 CE**
The failed attempt of Caligula to invade Britannia. Instead of crossing the channel, the emperor ordered his soldiers to gather seashells and place them in their helmets.

**43 CE**
The Roman conquest of Britannia. While Aulus Plautius was the chief military commander, he patiently waited for Emperor Claudius to join him in the end and claim the overall victory.

**48 CE**
Governor Publius Ostorius Scapula suppressed a revolt carried out by a faction of the Iceni, angered over the unwarranted search of their homes and seizure of their weapons.

**50 CE**
The colonia at Camulodunum was established over the former capital of the Trinovantes. Native nobles were appointed to oversee the construction of the temple of Claudius.



Unable to join the forces of Caratacus or Venutius, many discontent Britons who still wished to make a stand against the empire continued to increase Boudica's forces as she led them south into the lands of the Trinovantes. Like the Iceni, the Trinovantes harboured deep resentment towards the Romans for the past decade, and so became the second major tribe to join the revolt. While warriors from tribes all over Britannia rallied to the movement, none of the tribes contributed as much manpower as the Iceni and the Trinovantes. Both tribes were so invested in the cause that their warriors were followed by an enormous trail of carts driven by their families and loaded with their possessions. To restore their people's honour, the Iceni and the Trinovantes were willing to risk everything.

Including the women, children and elderly who accompanied the march, the British horde may have increased to well over 100,000 people, with a core of warriors that was tens of thousands strong. Confident of overwhelming any meagre force the Romans sent against her, Boudica led her army towards their first target - the colonia of Camulodunum. The town was not only the most obvious choice for the rebels to attack, as it was in line to become the capital of the province, but its destruction was also the main reason the Trinovantes joined the revolt. It was imperative the colony was burned to the ground.

Camulodunum was once the capital of the Trinovantes until the Romans established it as a

## THE TRIBES

### ICENI

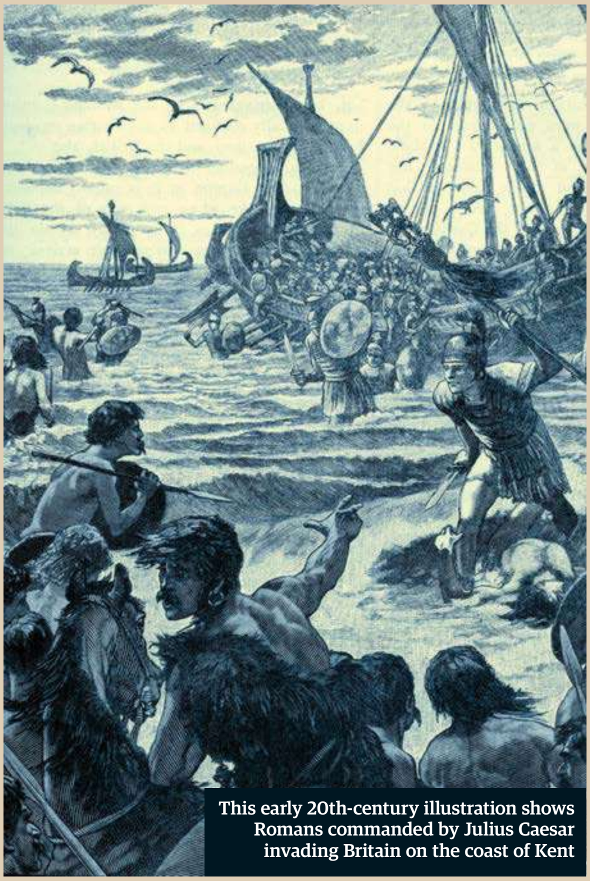
**Location:** Norfolk
**Leader:** Boudica
The tribe was possibly the Cenimagni recorded by Julius Caesar when he invaded in 55 BCE. Except for the small-scale revolt in 48 CE, the Iceni remained a loyal client kingdom until the Boudican rebellion.

### TRINOVANTES

**Location:** Essex, Suffolk and parts of Greater London
**Leader:** The Roman Governor of Britannia
By the time of the rebellion, the Trinovantes had fully become part of the province of Britannia. The tribe was enraged over the colonia at Camulodunum.

### BRIGANTES

**Location:** Northern England and the Midlands
**Leader:** Cartimandua
The Romans benefited from their alliance with Cartimandua, as the vast territory of her tribe served as a buffer zone between the province and hostile tribes further north.



This early 20th-century illustration shows Romans commanded by Julius Caesar invading Britain on the coast of Kent

## LIFE UNDER THE ROMANS

Life was difficult for the Britons under imperial rule, particularly during the first few decades after the conquest. Whereas before one king had ruled each tribe, both a governor and a procurator managed the new province of Britannia. The oppression enforced by these two officials was relentless - the Britons were mercilessly taxed to not only pay for the invasion of their own lands but also to cover the costs of extravagant building projects like the expansion of the colonia at Camulodunum. Additionally, attempts were made to weaken the military might of the Britons by forcing their young warriors to join the Roman army on foreign campaigns. The homes of some tribes were even ransacked and deprived of all weapons. However, several loyal client kings and aristocrats benefited greatly, for they gained access to large amounts of Mediterranean trade.

**51 CE**
Caratacus was defeated by Governor Scapula, ending his nine-year campaign of guerrilla warfare. He attempted to seek aid from the Brigantes, but was betrayed by Queen Cartimandua.

**54 CE**
Nero became Emperor of Rome after the death of Claudius. A period of unrest then began among the anti-Roman Brigantes, who wished to exploit the change of power in the imperial capital.

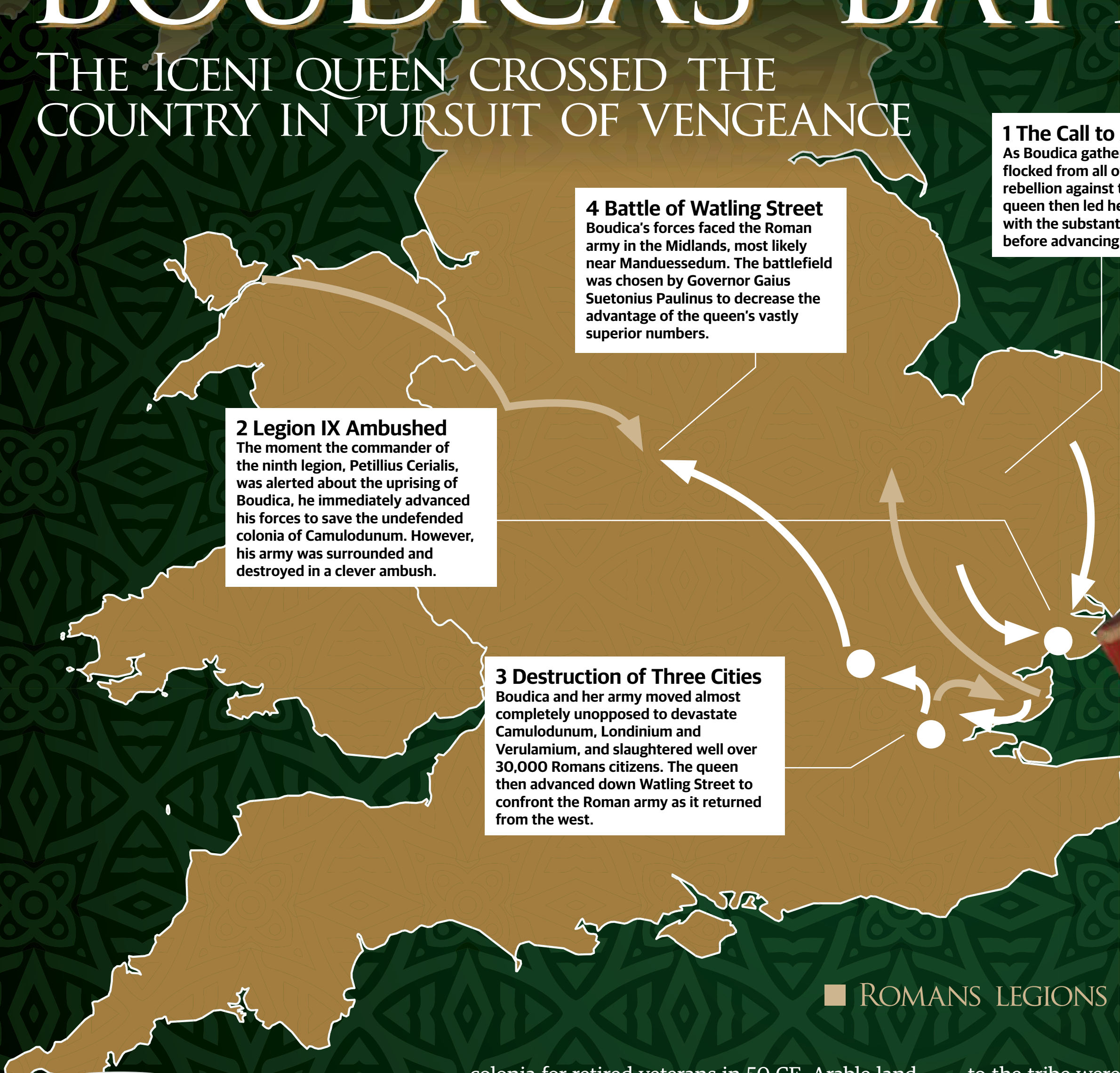
**57 CE**
Cartimandua divorced her husband, Venutius, and took his armour-bearer, Vellocatus, as her new consort. The queen was forced to request Roman aid to defeat the army of her ex-lover.

**60 CE**
The army of Governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinus assaulted the druids on the island of Mona and slaughtered them. Afterwards, he was informed about the rebellion of Boudica in the east.

**69 CE**
The rebels of the Brigantes exploited the chaotic state of Rome during the 'Year of Four Emperors'. When Venutius attacked, the Romans managed to save Cartimandua, but could not save her kingdom.

# BOUDICA'S BATTLE

## THE ICENI QUEEN CROSSED THE COUNTRY IN PURSUIT OF VENGEANCE



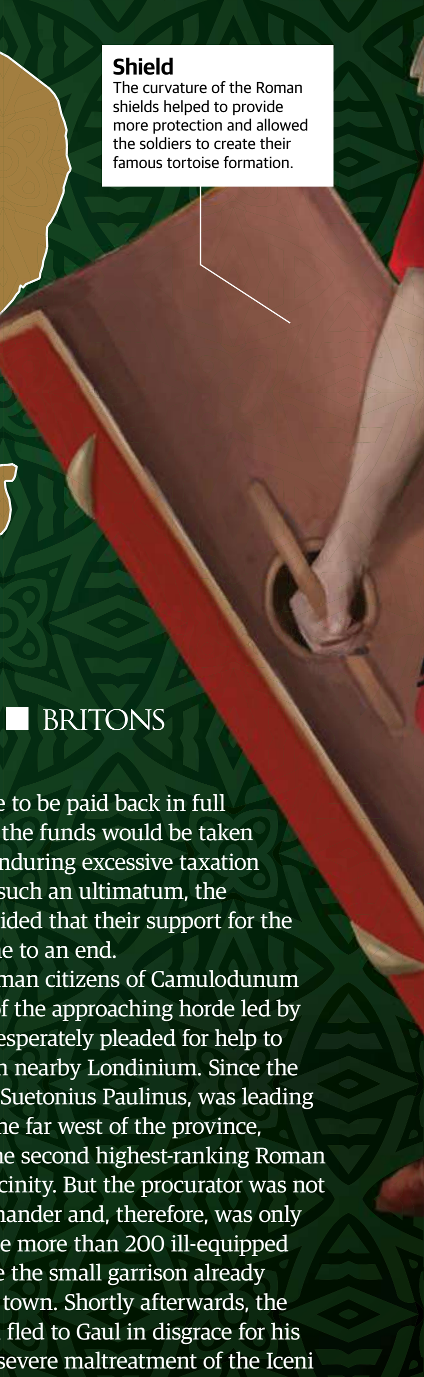
**1 The Call to Arms**
As Boudica gathered her people, warriors flocked from all over Britannia to join her rebellion against the Roman Empire. The queen then led her army south to combine with the substantial forces of the Trinovantes before advancing towards Camulodunum.

**2 Legion IX Ambushed**
The moment the commander of the ninth legion, Petillius Cerialis, was alerted about the uprising of Boudica, he immediately advanced his forces to save the undefended colonia of Camulodunum. However, his army was surrounded and destroyed in a clever ambush.

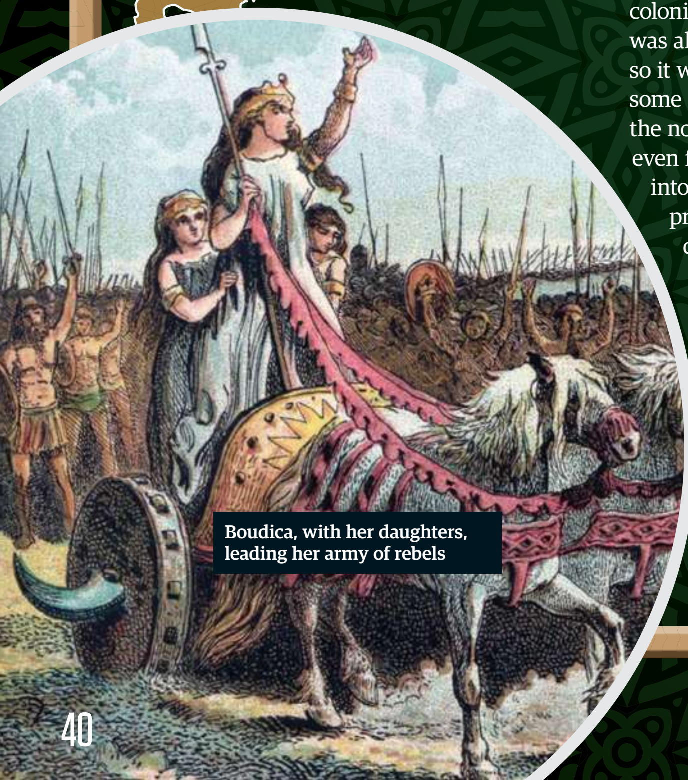
**3 Destruction of Three Cities**
Boudica and her army moved almost completely unopposed to devastate Camulodunum, Londinium and Verulamium, and slaughtered well over 30,000 Romans citizens. The queen then advanced down Watling Street to confront the Roman army as it returned from the west.

**4 Battle of Watling Street**
Boudica's forces faced the Roman army in the Midlands, most likely near Manduessedum. The battlefield was chosen by Governor Gaius Suetonius Paulinus to decrease the advantage of the queen's vastly superior numbers.

■ ROMANS LEGIONS ■ BRITONS



**Shield**
The curvature of the Roman shields helped to provide more protection and allowed the soldiers to create their famous tortoise formation.

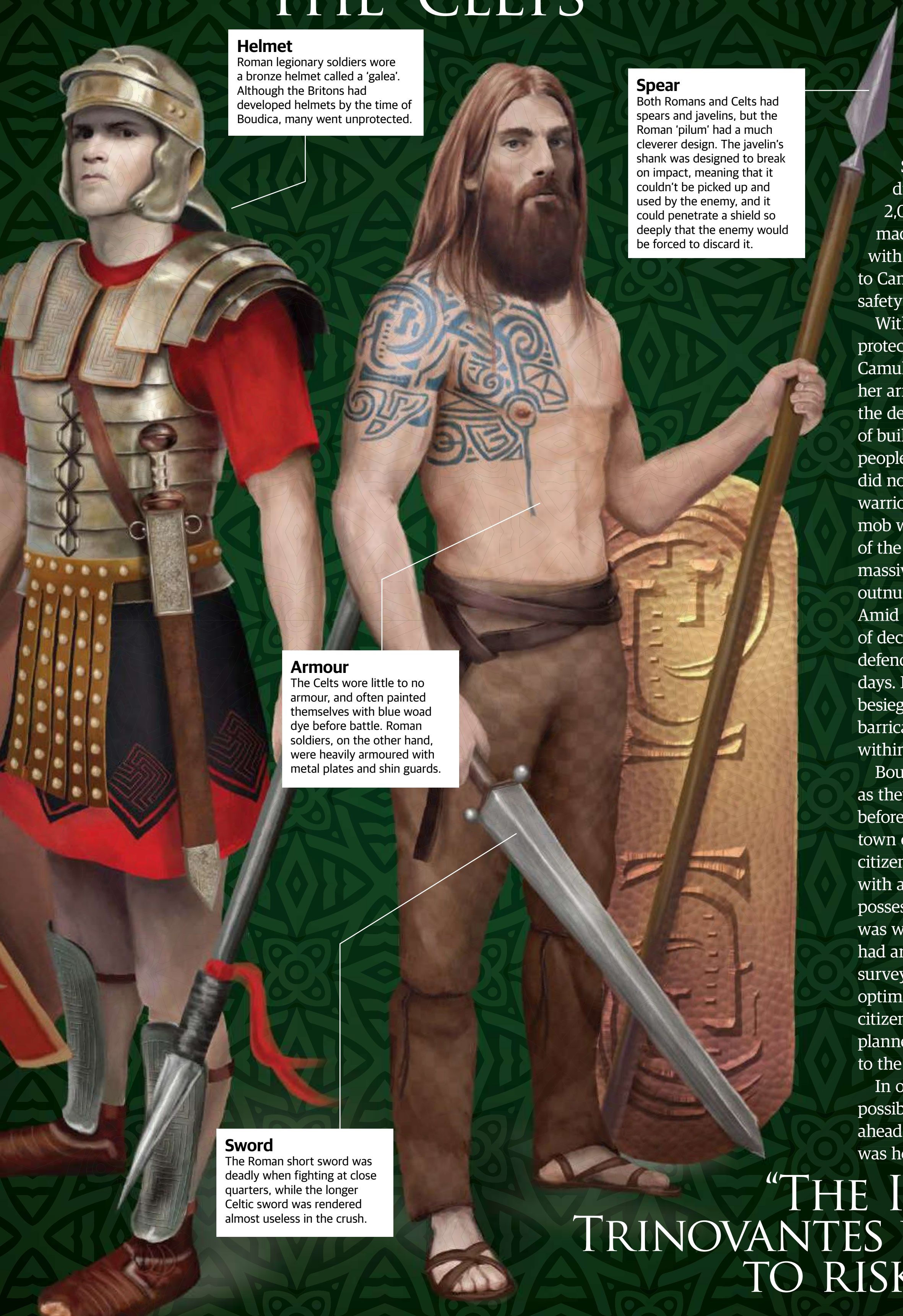


Boudica, with her daughters, leading her army of rebels

colonia for retired veterans in 50 CE. Arable land was also required for the farms of the soldiers, so it was taken from members of the tribe. As some of the strongest supporters of the Romans, the nobles of the Trinovantes were 'rewarded' even further for their loyalty with membership into the priesthood of the Augustales. As priests dedicated to the worship of the deified emperors, it was the duty of the Augustales to build the grand temple of Claudius within their former capital. To pay for the temple and the construction required to transform Camulodunum into a colonia, the Trinovantes were given considerable loans by both the Roman state and the fabulously wealthy statesman Seneca. However, the top financial officer, or procurator, of the province, Catus Decianus, had recently demanded that all loans given to the tribe were to be paid back in full immediately, or the funds would be taken by force. After enduring excessive taxation and then given such an ultimatum, the Trinovantes decided that their support for the empire had come to an end.

When the Roman citizens of Camulodunum became aware of the approaching horde led by Boudica, they desperately pleaded for help to the procurator in nearby Londinium. Since the governor, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, was leading a campaign in the far west of the province, Decianus was the second highest-ranking Roman official in the vicinity. But the procurator was not a military commander and, therefore, was only able to send little more than 200 ill-equipped men to reinforce the small garrison already stationed in the town. Shortly afterwards, the financial official fled to Gaul in disgrace for his approval of the severe maltreatment of the Iceni

# ROMANS VERSUS THE CELTS



**Helmet**
Roman legionary soldiers wore a bronze helmet called a 'galea'. Although the Britons had developed helmets by the time of Boudica, many went unprotected.

**Spear**
Both Romans and Celts had spears and javelins, but the Roman 'pilum' had a much cleverer design. The javelin's shank was designed to break on impact, meaning that it couldn't be picked up and used by the enemy, and it could penetrate a shield so deeply that the enemy would be forced to discard it.

**Armour**
The Celts wore little to no armour, and often painted themselves with blue woad dye before battle. Roman soldiers, on the other hand, were heavily armoured with metal plates and shin guards.

**Sword**
The Roman short sword was deadly when fighting at close quarters, while the longer Celtic sword was rendered almost useless in the crush.

and Trinovantes that led to the rebellion. What the citizens of Camulodunum did not know was that the ninth legion, led by Quintus Petillius Cerialis, was already on its way to save the town before Boudica was able to reach it. In the hope of intercepting the rebel horde, Cerialis rushed towards their presumed location. The Roman commander moved with too much haste, for he and his men were unable to detect the trap they had walked into before it was too late.

Suddenly, British warriors appeared from all directions and an onslaught ensued. Of the 2,000 soldiers under his command, only 500 made it out of the devastating ambush alive with Cerialis. Boudica continued on her course to Camulodunum as the beaten legion fled to the safety of a small fort.

With no solid defences constructed yet to protect the growing colonia, the citizens of Camulodunum watched in horror as Boudica led her army into the town, unopposed, and ordered the destruction of everything in sight. Dozens of buildings were set on fire and thousands of people were slaughtered in the streets. Boudica did not intend on taking prisoners, nor did her warriors, so any Roman caught by the armed mob was killed. The Roman soldiers and the rest of the survivors barricaded themselves within the massive temple of Claudius, but the desperately outnumbered force was completely surrounded. Amid the black smoke filling the sky and reek of decaying flesh surrounding the edifice, the defenders held off the British horde for two long days. But, by the end of the second day, the besiegers finally broke through the remaining barricades and massacred all who remained within the despised temple.

Boudica and her men pillaged as many spoils as they could find in the ruins of Camulodunum before they moved on towards the merchant town of Londinium. This time around, the citizens were aware of the advancing army, with ample time to allow them to gather their possessions and abandon the town. Yet hope was with the Romans, for Governor Paulinus had arrived with a small contingent of cavalry to survey the situation. Soon afterwards, however, optimism gave way to feelings of horror as the citizens of Londinium realized that Paulinus planned to retreat from the city and leave it open to the British marauders.

In order to reach the town as quickly as possible, the governor had been forced to travel ahead of the vast majority of his army. Since he was hopelessly outnumbered, Paulinus decided

"THE ICENI AND THE TRINOVANTES WERE WILLING TO RISK EVERYTHING" to reunite with his forces and meet Boudica in a place of his choosing, where her superior numbers would not be such an advantage.

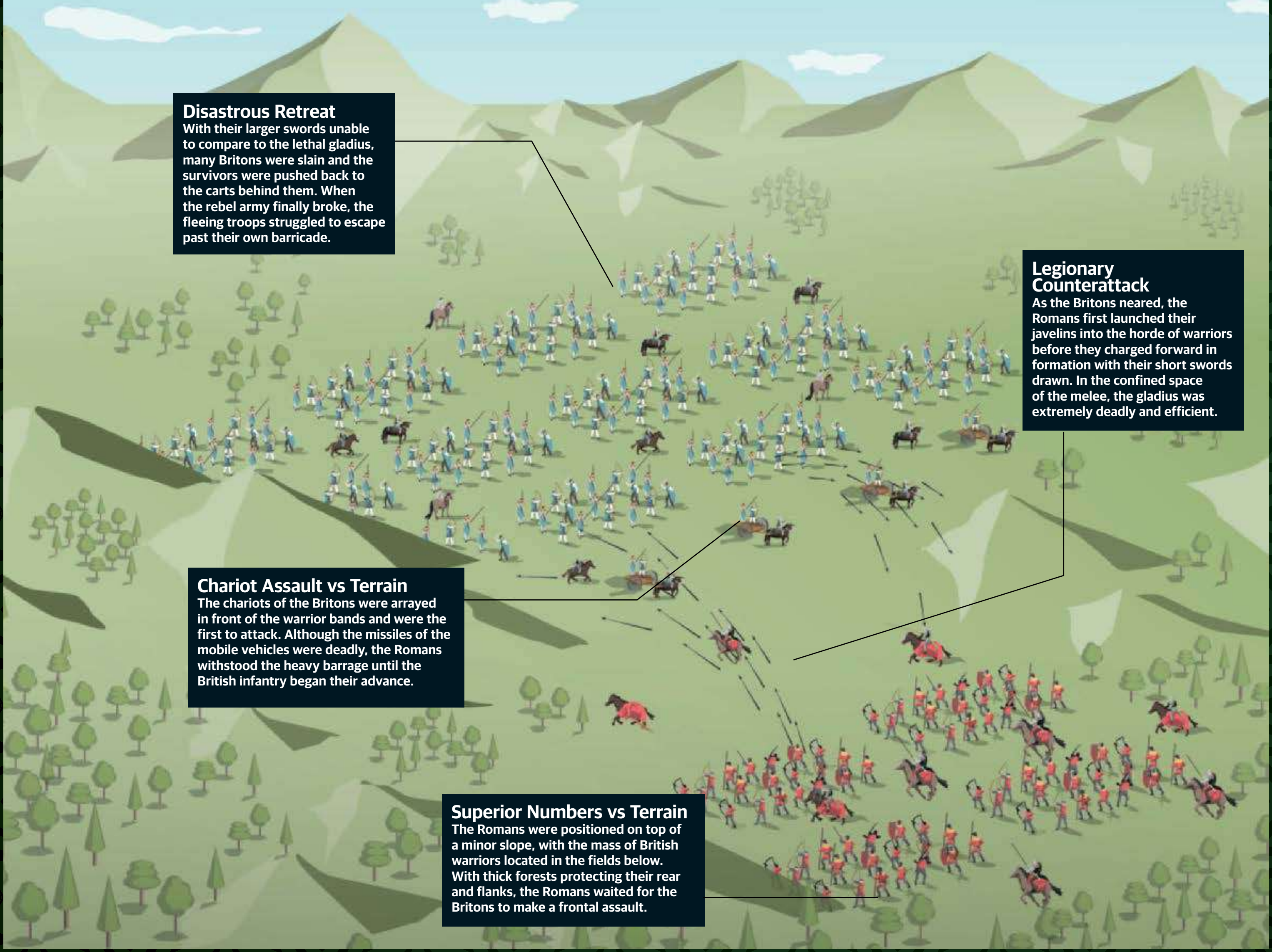
Londinium was almost deserted by the time that Boudica reached the town, and any Roman left behind was slain and imperial buildings were destroyed. Unspeakable atrocities were also perpetrated on some of the aristocratic women caught in the town, possibly in revenge for the crimes committed against Boudica. After the Britons mutilated their breasts and faces, these unfortunate Roman noblewomen were executed by impalement on spikes. Once the destruction of Londinium was complete and sufficient booty gathered, the horde moved on to sack another smaller town, Verulamium, before it headed down the road now known as Watling Street towards the ultimate confrontation with the Roman army under Paulinus. In her wake, Boudica left a path of destruction that may have included the deaths of as many as 70,000 Romans and Romanised Britons.

> “BOUDICA LED HER ARMY INTO THE TOWN AND ORDERED THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERYTHING”

The legionaries that Paulinus was forced to leave behind when he made his rapid trek east were returning from the successful invasion of the island of Mona, off the coast of Wales. As a major religious centre of the druids, Mona was perceived as a huge threat to the Romans, for the Celtic priests had long been the supporters of nearly every uprising against imperial rule across Gaul and Britannia. Therefore, when Paulinus became the governor of Britannia in 58 CE, he made it his top priority to crush all resistance on Mona and massacre all of the rebel priests found there. After their major triumph against the druids, the legionaries were highly motivated to eradicate the British insurgents of Boudica.

After the devastation of Verulamium, Boudica continued down Watling Street as Paulinus gathered his forces. With only Legion XX, some units from Legion XIV and auxiliaries, as well as the small remnant of Legion IX, Paulinus' army only numbered about 10,000 soldiers. The

## BATTLE OF WATLING STREET

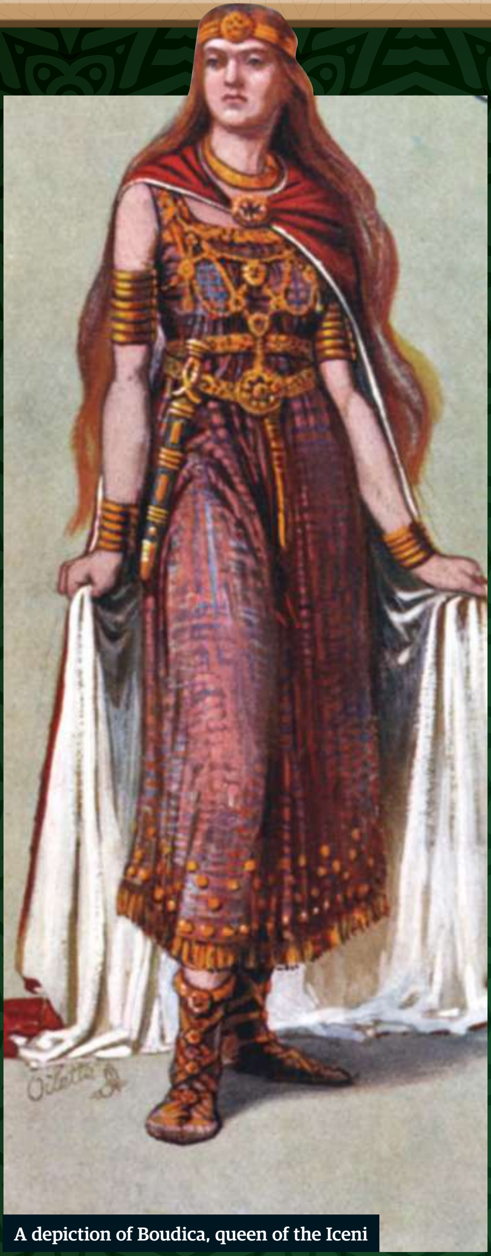


**Disastrous Retreat**
With their larger swords unable to compare to the lethal gladius, many Britons were slain and the survivors were pushed back to the carts behind them. When the rebel army finally broke, the fleeing troops struggled to escape past their own barricade.

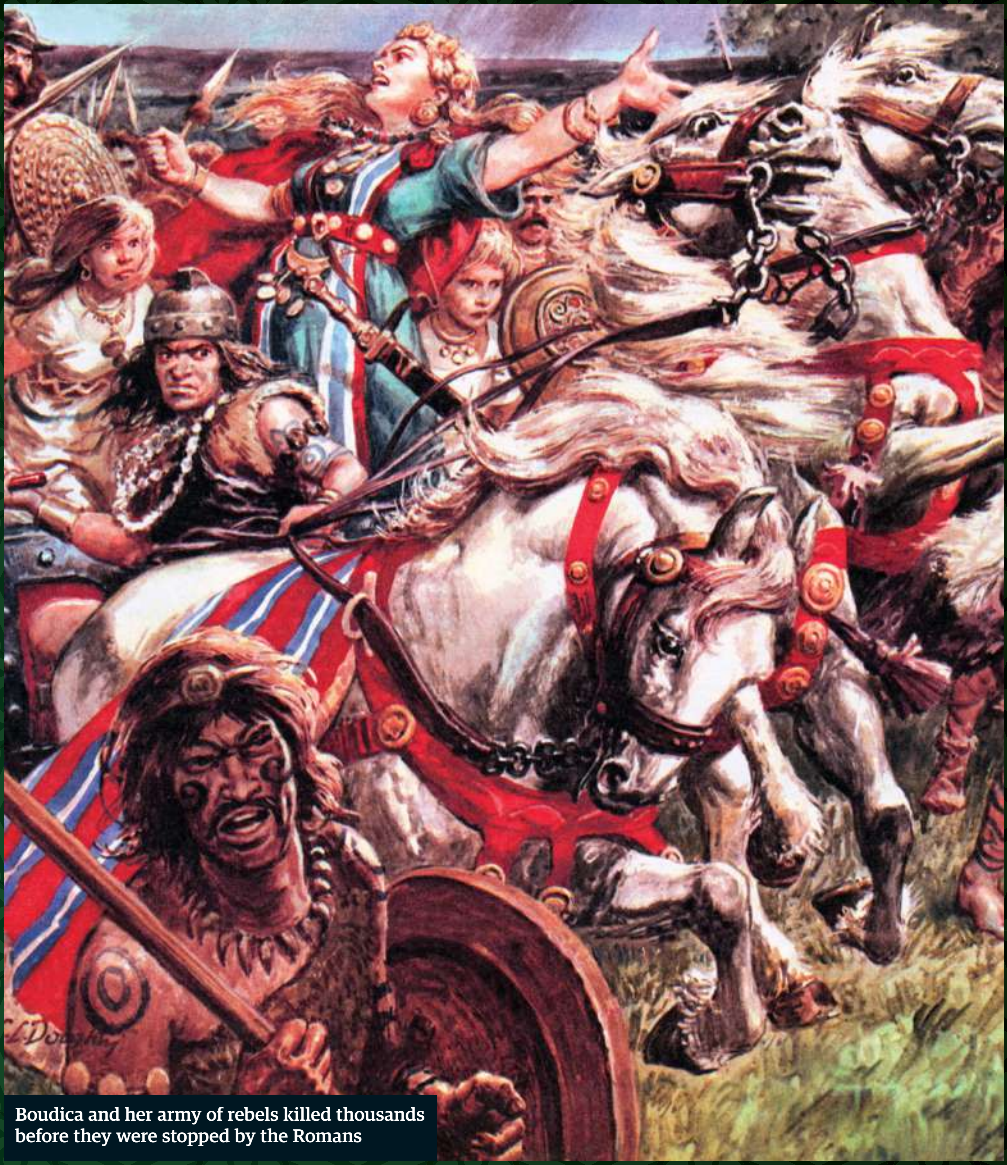
**Legionary Counterattack**
As the Britons neared, the Romans first launched their javelins into the horde of warriors before they charged forward in formation with their short swords drawn. In the confined space of the melee, the gladius was extremely deadly and efficient.

**Chariot Assault vs Terrain**
The chariots of the Britons were arrayed in front of the warrior bands and were the first to attack. Although the missiles of the mobile vehicles were deadly, the Romans withstood the heavy barrage until the British infantry began their advance.

**Superior Numbers vs Terrain**
The Romans were positioned on top of a minor slope, with the mass of British warriors located in the fields below. With thick forests protecting their rear and flanks, the Romans waited for the Britons to make a frontal assault.



A depiction of Boudica, queen of the Iceni



Boudica and her army of rebels killed thousands before they were stopped by the Romans

governor would have had slightly more men at his disposal, but the commander of Legion II failed to muster his troops and combine with the forces of Paulinus. Boudica, on the other hand, led a horde of hundreds of thousands that may have consisted of as many as 230,000. But Paulinus had two advantages – the training and discipline of his men, and the fact that they were all battle-ready soldiers.

When Boudica finally reached the Romans in the Midlands, they were most likely positioned near Manduessedum. Paulinus had chosen an ideal location to assemble his men, with a thick forest behind them and slopes protecting their flanks. The legionaries formed the centre of the army with auxiliary units on each side and cavalry contingents on the wings. The warrior bands of Boudica's massive host gathered before the Roman legions, brandishing their swords and screaming war cries as Boudica rode along the front lines in a chariot with her daughters. As her long hair flowed in the wind, the tall warrior queen raised her powerful voice above the tumult to give a rousing speech that reminded her troops of the cruelty and oppression they were fighting against. On the other side of the field, Paulinus also raised the confidence of his men through very direct words. He emphasised their extensive training, for them to see that their professionalism was a much greater asset than overwhelming numbers.

When the two forces collided at the battle of Watling Street, the chariots of the Britons wreaked havoc down the Roman lines. However, the large infantries of each army inevitably clashed and the superior equipment and martial skills of the Romans won the day. Furthermore, when the Britons broke and fled from the slaughter caused by the deadly Roman short swords, they were trapped by the semi-circle of carts and could not escape. In the end, everything in the path of the victorious legionaries was slain, including women, children and the pack animals travelling with the Britons.

In defeat, Boudica drank poison, choosing to end her own life rather than fall into the hands of the Romans. Although ultimately unsuccessful at removing the Romans from Britannia, Boudica had her revenge with the deaths of thousands of her imperial oppressors. In fact, so much devastation had occurred that Emperor Nero nearly gave up on the fragile fledgling province, for it was more costly to maintain than financially beneficial. He would have done so if it were not for the courageous efforts of Paulinus. Afterwards, the governor went on to continue the savagery of the Romans, focusing his brutality primarily on the remaining Iceni and Trinovantes until they were sufficiently subdued. Boudica may have achieved the vengeance she sought, but the sad truth is that her people faced even more oppression after her death because of her actions against the empire.

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# What if…
# Rome never fell?

## EUROPE, 117-PRESENT

**Illustration by Ian Hinley**

**JERRY GLOVER**

After completing his degree at Manchester University, Jerry Glover became a scriptwriter and television producer before turning to independent historical research with a particular interest in ancient societies in Europe, the Near East, and India. He has written dozens of articles for numerous publications, and in June to August 2013 he curated an exhibition in St Albans dedicated to Medieval graffiti, based on his own photographs and research, the first such exhibition held anywhere. He is currently working on a book tracing intersections between art, crafts, and cultures across a multi-millennial timespan.

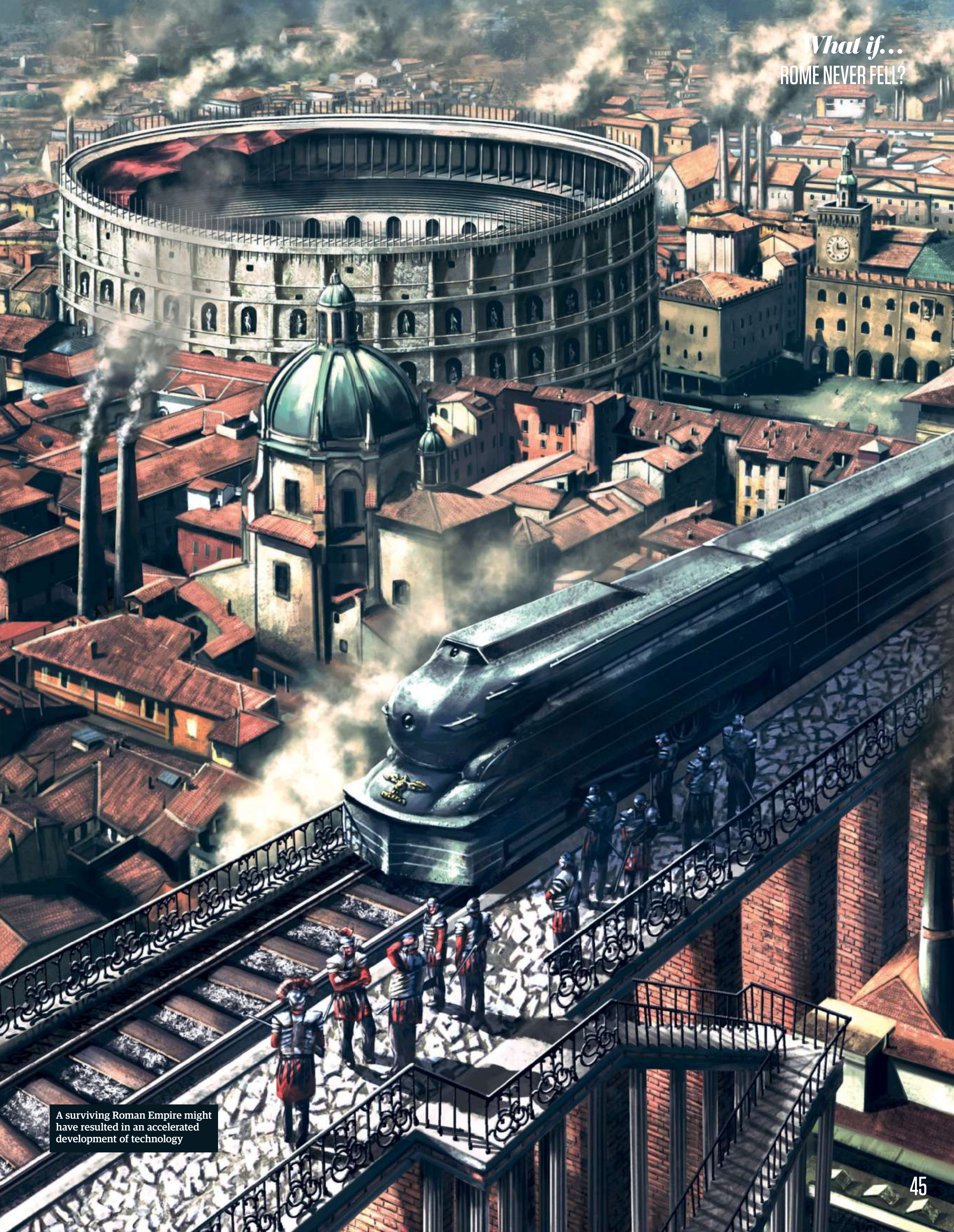
**Can we pinpoint a time when the Roman Empire fell?**
We're speaking of the Western Empire, which after a long decline symbolically fell in Ravenna in 476. But an enhanced Senate continued to exist for more than a century afterward. The Roman concept of state was continued for almost a millennia, as the Holy Roman Empire and the Western Roman Empire continued to exist 'on paper', but only as a legal formality. Let's also not forget that the Eastern Empire continued until the 15th century. Given all that, it'd be a phenomenal situation if Rome never fell. 'Never' is the key idea here. For a Western Roman Empire still in existence today would have to be so different from the reality of what made it the Roman Empire that we could hardly call it that at all! A surviving Western Empire might well hold vastly disproportionate influence over human affairs everywhere. It would encompass, and indeed define, most if not the whole of Europe, as well as other parts of the world.

**How possible is it for Rome not to have fallen; what would have to be different?**
From the end of the 2nd century, levels of trade and prosperity fell, never again achieving the levels of the early Principate. By the mid-3rd century, when the empire split into three competing empires and widespread civil unrest massively disrupted the trade network, the degeneration of imperial finances escalated. The state's inability to pay its troops increased too.

Essential items such as weapons, clothing and food became part of soldiers' pay, and much trade took place without currency. One response was to debase the currency. In the second half of the 3rd century the silver content of the antonianus collapsed, causing hyperinflation, which had to be dealt with by Aurelian in 271 and 274 by raising taxes and eradicating the bad coinage in Rome and Italy, but not the provinces. To prevent continual currency devaluing, Rome would have needed to grow its silver and gold reserves. Mines in Italy were not large or reliable enough, so instead Rome could stem the amount of silver it exported to India in return for spices, curtailing its taste for luxuries. Difficult! Preferably, they could discover new sources that exist in Central Europe or sub-Saharan Africa, or by voyaging to Mesoamerica where silver and gold is plentiful and fairly easy to reach.

Excellent cartography and astronomy borrowed from Persia is key to making this possible. In the Mesoamerican scenario, the Romans come up against the Maya, sparking conflicts the Romans would be hard-pressed to win in harsh jungles, and greatly outnumbered. Instead, they muster their advantage in technology and international connections to cajole the Mayans into a trade alliance to develop their civilisation - exchange steel, machinery and urban planning for Mayan gold and hardwood. With diplomatic outposts established in Mayan cities, Roman legions, consisting of Mayan warriors as well, march to the gold regions of Peru and California, returning to Rome with spoils that make the treasure of the Temple of Jerusalem look like a prize at a village fete lucky dip.

**How would Rome's government be different?**
To keep the empire stable, a balance would have to be struck between tight, autocratic rule by an elite oligarchy, intelligent decision making, and the machinations of prestigious, well-connected individuals. The expensive civil wars that contributed to the collapse could be averted if Rome had reformed the system by which the emperor was selected after the 3rd century, when the senatorial class was marginalised and any connection with the imperial family was sufficient to make a claim. Almost all emperors after that time were army officers or imperial officials, and that stratocracy led to rivals and bloody conflicts. From the mid-3rd century, emperors also wasted time with matters that previously were dealt with by an imperial legate. If he was unwilling to trust anyone else to deal with a distant problem it would be neglected, and the trend toward



A surviving Roman Empire might have resulted in an accelerated development of technology smaller provinces made it even harder to get things done than ever before.

Diocletian's Tetrarchic system from 293 quartered the empire, each part ruled by a sovereign emperor. But each group selfishly favoured its own aims over the empire. So the system crumbled from near-constant civil wars. With much more radical reform it might have worked if the Tetrarchy reformed into a Supreme Imperial Office comprising more regional co-emperors, who were chosen only from the Senate. And if reform included the chance to become a senator - or any official - on personal merits, not just for being one of the landed classes.

Intelligence and capability also have to carry real political influence, basically an oligarchy of technocrats. Each office is decided by a small closed election, a bit like the way the Pope is chosen from a group of cardinals. But the periods of service are fixed, like the president of the United States, so no office gets too much influence over the rest. Only soldiers are allowed to keep their jobs as long as they are performing well, but no general can become emperor. That's very important, as is keeping the army properly paid. It's a system where anyone can become an official, or even emperor. Yet still oligarchal and Roman enough to preserve the ideals that work so well in the empire's favour - conquest, assimilation, expansion. That's the basic theory, anyway.

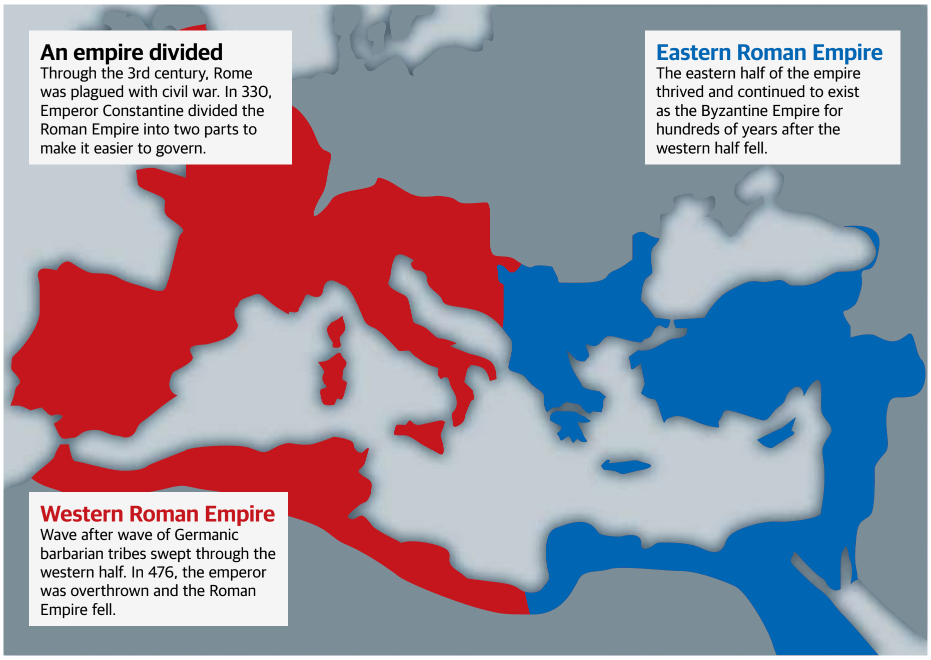
**How might Rome have progressed beyond the 5th century and onward?**

In the 7th century the new religion of Islam galloped out of Arabia, and Muslim armies began a war against both the Romans and the Sassanians, already fighting since the 3rd century. Many factors would have to go into Rome winning the war against this fresh expansion. For one, Rome would need the resources to defend the Middle East, which supposing they still have western Europe and north Africa, and are investing deeply into gaining a foothold in Mesoamerica as I envisage, it is still questionable unless they can make up with the Sassanians. It's a logical step for them to build strong diplomatic relations with other empires; the Hunnic, Sasanian, Rashidun, Umayyad, Mongol, and subsequent empires.

Despite all the negative connotations of being an empire, a surviving, generally non-belligerent Western Roman Empire would in some sense be the model of a well-governed, prosperous, cosmopolitan society, having evolved beyond the strife and economic problems that dogged its early history, exacerbating its actual demise. On the other hand, the cost of this may well be an even more hierarchical and brutal society, with slavery still rooted, and a very harsh law code.

**Would the world as a whole be more or less technologically advanced?**

In certain areas I suggest it would be a lot more advanced, provided there's no stagnation of scientific enquiry that happened in Europe across Late Antiquity. Instead of the intelligentsia putting so much effort into Christian religious doctrine and hoarding ancient knowledge in closed



**An empire divided**
Through the 3rd century, Rome was plagued with civil war. In 330, Emperor Constantine divided the Roman Empire into two parts to make it easier to govern.

**Eastern Roman Empire**
The eastern half of the empire thrived and continued to exist as the Byzantine Empire for hundreds of years after the western half fell.

**Western Roman Empire**
Wave after wave of Germanic barbarian tribes swept through the western half. In 476, the emperor was overthrown and the Roman Empire fell.

## How would it be different?

### Real timeline

117

**Rome's greatest glory**
With victorious campaigns in Mesopotamia and Dacia, Trajan achieves the greatest extent of the Roman Empire's territory. The Empire's population is around 70 million. **117**

**Crisis of the 3rd century**
Upon Emperor Severus's murder by his own troops a string of short-term 'barracks emperors' fight, allowing frequent raids from foreign tribes. By 258 the empire splits into three states: Roman, Gallic and Palmyreme. **235-284**

**Diarchy and Tetrarchy**
Diocletian appoints officer Maximian as a second emperor with equal power. In 293 two more army officers are appointed junior Caesars with supreme authority, creating the Tetrarchy. Diocletian reforms taxation and coinage systems, but cannot enforce prices. **286-313**

**Foundation of the Eastern Empire**
The city of Byzantium becomes the new imperial seat of the Eastern Empire, with Constantine naming it Constantinople. The empire maintains control of the eastern provinces, regaining territory in Italy, Sicily, southern Spain and North Africa in the 6th century. **330**

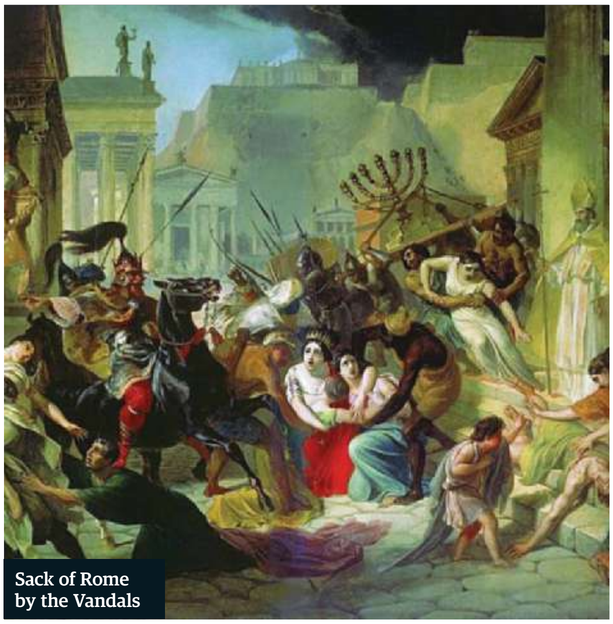
**Waves of invasion**
The Tervingi, a tribe of Goths under pressure from Hun tribes, are allowed into Roman territory. After their leader is killed, they rebel, invade Italy and sack Rome before securing lands in Aquitaine and Gaul. They found a kingdom in former Roman Iberia (Portugal and Spain). **376**

**Battle of Adrianople**
Emperor Valens heeds the advice of the cautious Western general Richomer not to attack, instead of the hawkish Eastern general Sebastian who urges the order. Valens negotiates, stalling while reinforcements arrive, and wins the battle.
**9 August 378**

### Real timeline

**Loss of Britain**
Following the removal of troops in northern and western Britain, Constantine's officials are finally expelled by rebellious British chieftains, ending direct Roman rule. In 410 they appeal to Emperor Honorius who urges them to 'fend for themselves.' **407-408**

### Alternative timeline


Sack of Rome by the Vandals

A depiction of Pilate's Forum

monasteries, there is a freer circulation of information that allows engineering to innovate much faster. Steel was known to the Romans, and sooner or later they must have realised that making tools from it instead of just weapons, would increase agricultural productivity, and architecture would develop faster for its use in tools, cranes and girders. The principle of steam power was already known to the Ancient Greeks.

If the Romans had cottoned onto the possibilities of that, combined with iron and steel, it's feasible they could have invented the steam engine, hence locomotives, revolutionising long-distance transport, a rail network spanning the empire. The Industrial Revolution could have started a thousand years earlier, marking the beginning of the end for the slave system.

This isn't necessarily for everyone's benefit. More powerful engines of war, including firearms, might well have encouraged emperors to expand the empire's boundaries, bigger wars and extra pressure on state finances and reductions in the overall standard of living. But if the empire is not to fall, ambitions of conquest must be held in check, maintaining the delicate balance of international relations.

**Are there any key events that could have stemmed Rome's fall if they went differently?**

One that stands out is the Battle of Adrianople in 378 when Roman forces of the Eastern Empire lost some 10,000 lives to the Visigoths under Fritigern. This gave the Goths free rein in Thrace and Dacia, a major instigator of the process that led to the fall of the Western Empire. The blame for this calamity rests with Emperor Valens (364 to 378). During negotiations, premature attack broke out from the Roman side, and Valens allowed this to force his hand, ordering an attack that spiralled into a disaster, including his own death. If Valens had kept his head, who knows? Instead of being the 'Last True Roman' as he's been called, he might have been the greatest of them all.

### Have your say

Do you agree with our expert's view?

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**Accelerating the decline**
The deaths of four strong military leaders, Theodosius in 395, Stilicho in 408, Constantius III in 421 and Aetius in 451, are crucial in greatly accelerating the collapse of the Western Empire. **395-451**

**First sack of Rome**
In their third attempt Visigoths under Alaric ransack the city, killing and torturing citizens to reveal their hidden valuables. The Goths continue to ravage southern Italy. Roman refugees flee to North Africa. **August 410**

**A crucial blow**
The Vandals move on from Spain into North Africa, securing Carthage, then Sicily. This further weakens the state's revenue and ability to field an army, encouraging further Goth attacks that regain most areas of the Western Empire. **439-441**

**Fall of the Western Empire**
King Odoacer deposes Emperor Romulus Augustus and sends the imperial regalia to the emperor of the Eastern Empire at Constantinople. **4 September 476**

**Vandals repelled**
Majoran uses an enhanced fleet of 65 ships (not 40) to win against the Vandals at the Battle of Cartagena. He retakes Sicily, gradually reverses the Vandal usurpation of North Africa. Rome expands into sub-Saharan Africa. **461-475**

**Black Death averted**
Grain ships carrying bubonic plague from Egypt sink in a storm before reaching Constantinople. The averted Plague of Justinian allows the Eastern Empire to populate faster by a factor of two. **541-542**

**Invention and expansion**
The first outing of Minerva's Arrow, a steam engine that runs on rails, is a centrepiece of a yearlong festival of art and technology in Rome. The rail network gradually expands to all frontiers. **681-962**

**Return of the Black Death**
From one trade caravan on the Silk Road plague reaches Europe and then a ship bound for Mesoamerica. Half the empire's population and those of its neighbours, around 290 million, perish. **1346-1373**

**No more war?**
The Goths are assimilated, preventing their plunder in Thrace. With British territory stabilised, Rome trains on Scandinavia and the Ukraine, forming a frontier across the Baltic states. The ensuing massive cost entails harsh taxes, provoking empire-wide rioting. **378-415**

**The Second Pax Romana**
After three years of deliberation by the new Supreme Consilium, reforms are announced to forever eradicate corruption. Finances rebalanced, imperial wealth starts to surge. **475-635**

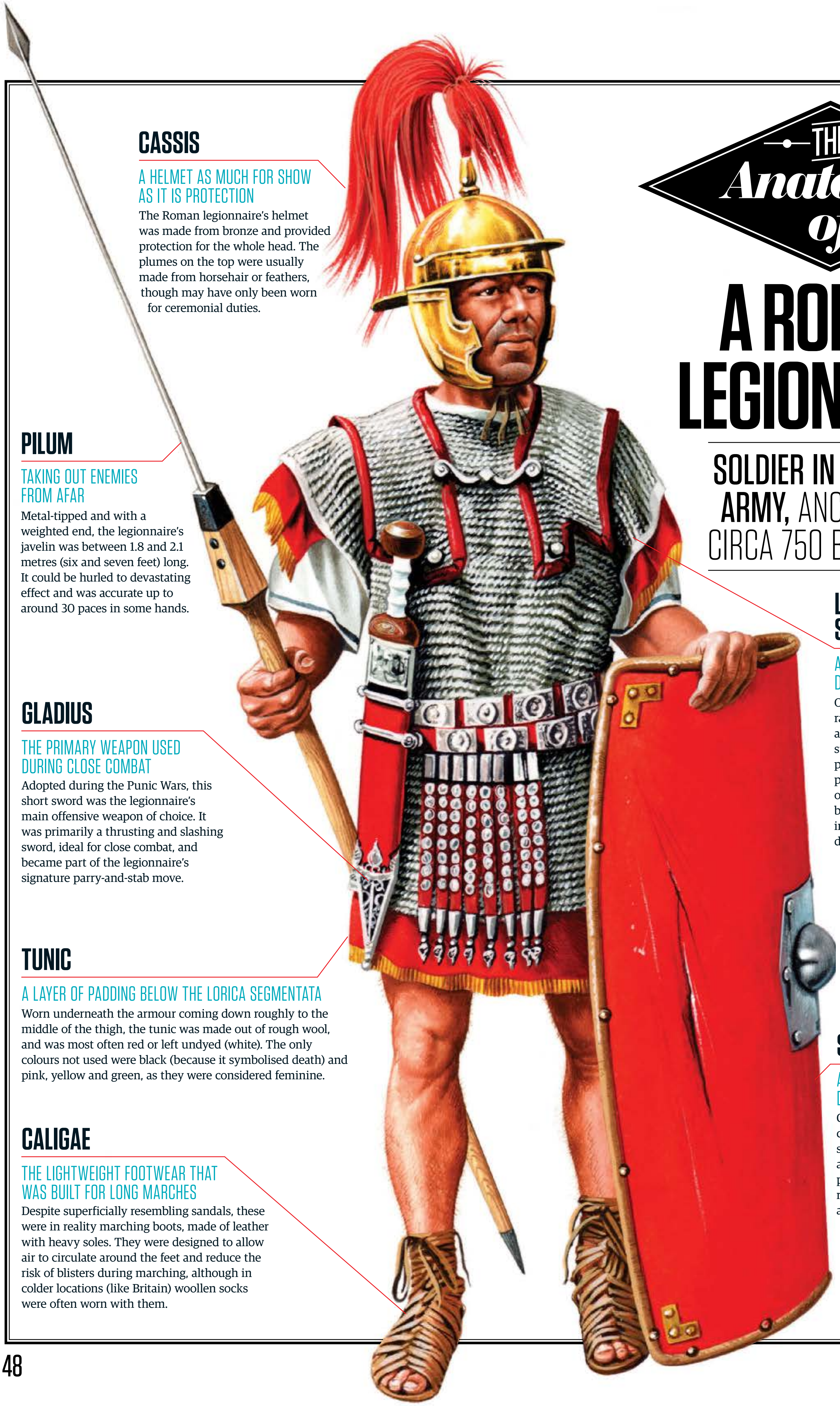
**Holy Land Wars**
A Roman-Axumite alliance prevents Islamic expansion into North Africa, but loses Mesopotamia to the caliphate powers. Rome loses control of Jerusalem. **635-700s**

**New World alliances**
After exploration and conflict in Mesoamerica, Rome establishes relations with the Mayans, helping prevent their civilisation's collapse. In Peru they extract tribute from the Chavin culture. In California they enslave Native American societies. **650-1251**

**The HyperRenaissance**
With a thousand years of super-accelerated progress in all fields of human knowledge at his disposal, Leonardo da Vinci is born in a suburb of the Florentia-Roma mega-city, the largest on Earth… **15 April 1452**

# THE *Anatomy of* A ROMAN LEGIONNAIRE

## SOLDIER IN THE ROMAN ARMY, ANCIENT ROME, CIRCA 750 BCE – 476 CE



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### CASSIS

A HELMET AS MUCH FOR SHOW AS IT IS PROTECTION

The Roman legionnaire's helmet was made from bronze and provided protection for the whole head. The plumes on the top were usually made from horsehair or feathers, though may have only been worn for ceremonial duties.

### PILUM

TAKING OUT ENEMIES FROM AFAR

Metal-tipped and with a weighted end, the legionnaire's javelin was between 1.8 and 2.1 metres (six and seven feet) long. It could be hurled to devastating effect and was accurate up to around 30 paces in some hands.

### GLADIUS

THE PRIMARY WEAPON USED DURING CLOSE COMBAT

Adopted during the Punic Wars, this short sword was the legionnaire's main offensive weapon of choice. It was primarily a thrusting and slashing sword, ideal for close combat, and became part of the legionnaire's signature parry-and-stab move.

### TUNIC

A LAYER OF PADDING BELOW THE LORICA SEGMENTATA

Worn underneath the armour coming down roughly to the middle of the thigh, the tunic was made out of rough wool, and was most often red or left undyed (white). The only colours not used were black (because it symbolised death) and pink, yellow and green, as they were considered feminine.

### CALIGAE

THE LIGHTWEIGHT FOOTWEAR THAT WAS BUILT FOR LONG MARCHES

Despite superficially resembling sandals, these were in reality marching boots, made of leather with heavy soles. They were designed to allow air to circulate around the feet and reduce the risk of blisters during marching, although in colder locations (like Britain) woollen socks were often worn with them.

### LORICA SEGMENTATA

A COAT OF METAL TO DEFLECT ATTACKS

Once only used by the highest-ranking soldiers, this form of armour eventually became standard after the Romans perfected the ability to mass-produce metal goods. Consisting of strips of iron or steel that had been heated by coal and quenched in oil or water, it was perfect for deflecting swords and arrows.

### SCUTUM

A SHIELD USED FOR BOTH DEFENCE AND OFFENCE

Constructed from plywood and covered in leather, the oval-shaped shield called a scutum was over a metre (3.3 feet) in length, and proved a valuable defence against ranged weapons. Up close, it could also be used as a weapon.